

## Russia to give Iran 2 more reactors\*

LONDON (AFP) — Russia is to supply Iran with two more nuclear reactors to equip a suspected weapons development complex under a secret deal signed recently in Moscow, the Sunday Telegraph reported. "The new deal for two 400 megawatt reactors was struck after a Moscow visit this month by an Iranian delegation," the paper said. It added: "The reactors are destined for the Neka nuclear research complex in Iran's remote northern region (which is understood by Western intelligence to be part of Iran's research programme to develop its own atomic weapons)." Russia has already agreed to provide Iran with a 1,000 megawatt nuclear reactor which is to start installation at Bushehr in the south of the country at the end of the year. The United States tried frantically to scuttle the deal, saying it would enable Tehran's nuclear weapons programme. The conservative Telegraph's rival the Sunday Times, quoting "Western intelligence officials," meanwhile claimed that Iran was receiving help from Russia in developing biological weapons.

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## Kuwait arrests 3 Iraqi 'infiltrators'

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti border patrol arrested two Iraqi soldiers and an Iraqi student for entering the emirate state illegally, a newspaper reported on Sunday. Soldiers Adel Abou Souda, 20, and Qabtan Ibrahim, 25, and student Firas Riyad, 19, said they sought asylum in Kuwait or deportation to a third country due to bad living conditions in Iraq, Al Aan newspaper reported. Earlier in August, Kuwaiti troops arrested another group of Iraqi civilians and military personnel for illegal entry. As a result of that infiltration, troops stationed near the border were ordered to intensify monitoring of the frontier.

## Sudan: Egypt is 'colonising' Halabib

KHARTOUM (R) — A Khartoum newspaper said on Sunday Egypt was trying to colonise the disputed Halabib triangle on the two countries' border by settling people and building military camps there. Both Cairo and Khartoum claim the largely empty desert area, and the dispute has led to clashes. The state-owned Al Ingaz Al Watani newspaper said Egyptian authorities "settled an unspecified number of Egyptians and set up camps for its soldiers at the Halabib... which aims at colonising the triangle and imposing a de facto political situation."

## Rivals fight in Somali capital

MOGADISHU (R) — Somali militiamen fought with artillery, mortars and machine-guns in Mogadishu on Sunday, killing at least six people and wounding 15 in a second, straight day of violence. Witnesses said clashes pitted militiamen loyal to faction leader Mohammad Farah Aideed based in south Mogadishu against rivals led by north Mogadishu faction leader Ali Mahdi Mohammad. They said mortar bombs and shells slammed into the disputed Bermuda district on Sunday. Hospital sources reported at least six people were killed and 15 wounded.

## Grenade explodes at Iran airport

TEHRAN (AFP) — A grenade exploded at an airport in southwestern Iran on Sunday, injuring one person, the official Iranian news agency IRNA reported. The device went off in a room in the administrative section of Ahvaz airport at 7:00 a.m. (2:30 GMT) before most of the personnel had reported for work, the agency said. An employee of the airport was injured and taken to hospital. At the time of the explosion, which caused "little" damage, some 200 travellers were waiting for their flights in a passenger terminal below the level where the blast occurred. The agency indirectly accused the main armed opposition group, Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, for the incident. The group, based in Iraq, "have been responsible for most bombings in Iran," it said. Last week.

## Iraq frees 21 Egyptians

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq on Sunday freed 21 Egyptian prisoners arrested for entering the country illegally, the head of the Egyptian interests section in Baghdad said Sunday. The 21, who had been sentenced to between three and eight years in jail, are part of a group of 37 Egyptians pardoned by Iraq since the start of the month, Mr. Reda Nasr told AFP. Some had been held since 1992. Another five were released last week while the remaining 11 would be freed soon, Mr. Nasr said, adding that they would all return to Egypt via Jordan. Mr. Nasr has been quoted in the Egyptian government daily Al Misa as saying that Iraq granted amnesty to 200 prisoners on Aug. 8.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

## Russia, Jordan sign cultural accord

AMMAN (Perse) — Jordan and Russia on Sunday signed an executive programme for the implementation of a cultural and scientific cooperation agreement between them for the years 1995 and 1996. Russia's Ambassador to Jordan Alexander Sutranov, who signed the programme with the secretary general of the Ministry of Planning Nabil Ammar, said Jordan and Russia are linked by friendship and cooperation in various fields benefiting the people in both countries. He said that Russia was keen on further promoting these ties. The programme provides for cooperation in education, science, higher education, culture, social development, information, youth, sports, tourism, health and archaeology. According to the ambassador, the two sides agreed on exchanging visits by delegations of university teachers, exchange of information related to education and culture and visits by folkloric troupes and cultural publications. The ambassador said that the two sides will exchange visits by journalists, encourage cooperation between the national news agencies and expertise in social security and in matters related to the status of women.



A Palestinian argues with an Israeli soldier who is preventing him from entering Jericho, which remained under an Israeli army siege on Sunday (AP photo)

## PLO, Israel sign accord on transfer of authority

Both sides hope to conclude final self-rule agreement in September

## Jericho remains under siege

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel lifted the ban on Palestinians leaving the West Bank on Sunday but kept a cordon around the autonomous town of Jericho after Palestinian police refused to hand over suspected members of a bombing ring.

The West Bank, where about one million Palestinians live, had been closed since a suicide bomb attack in Jerusalem left five people dead on Aug. 21. About 20,000 Palestinians work in Israel and were barred from their jobs.

Israeli officials said the ongoing closure on Jericho was needed as a security measure because of reports that suspects are hiding in the Palestinian-run town of 10,000.

"We know that there are terrorists in Jericho and others are seeking refuge there, and we also want to ensure that they don't come out to carry out attacks," said

"It also states that any legislative responsibility will be delegated to the eight districts. The government will not be given

## Israel orders closure of three PNA offices in Arab Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel's police minister signed closure orders on Sunday against three Palestinian offices in Arab East Jerusalem which carry out activities for the self-rule Palestinian National Authority (PNA), Israel Radio said.

Under the 1993 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal, the PNA must restrict its activities to areas under Palestinian self-rule — currently the Gaza Strip and West Bank enclave of Jericho.

The radio said Police Minister Moshe Shahal signed orders giving the Palestinian "statistics ministry and broadcasting authority" four days to close their offices in Jerusalem.

The Palestinian National Authority said the move to close the organisations went against the peace process.

"Everyone knows that closing these institutions will change nothing about the situation in Jerusalem," said Marwan Karanfani, spokesman for PLO leader Yasser Arafat, the authority's chairman.

"These offices have been campaigning to shut down Palestinian institutions in the city, decided that the three organisations were acting "against Israeli law because they are linked to the Palestinian Authority," the spokesman said.

In their declaration of principles signed in 1993, Israel and the PLO agreed to defer negotiations on the status of Jerusalem until two years after the beginning of Palestinian self-rule. Thus, the negotiations are slated to begin in May 1996.

As part of the declaration of principles, Israel undertook not to undermine the activities of Palestinian institutions in Arab Jerusalem in a letter signed by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and addressed to Mr. Arafat. The letter also pledged to encourage rather than object to Palestinian activities based in Jerusalem.

Only a handful of countries recognise Israel's claim to Jerusalem as the Jewish state's "eternal and indivisible capital." The investigations came after Mr. Shahal called for the

## House refuses to raise tax exemption for polygamists

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Lower House of Parliament session that was scheduled to discuss an amended draft income tax law Sunday turned into a heated debate over polygamy after some lawmakers took firm stands against denying husbands tax exemptions for more than one wife.

Islamic lawmakers had argued that wives were protecting women's rights by demanding that men receive tax exemption for the second, third and/or fourth wives. They said that all wives and all children should be entitled to the same tax-exemption.

"We should take into consideration the reality of our society," said one

member of the House, Toujan Faisal, was backed by the government in her opposition to the proposed amendment.

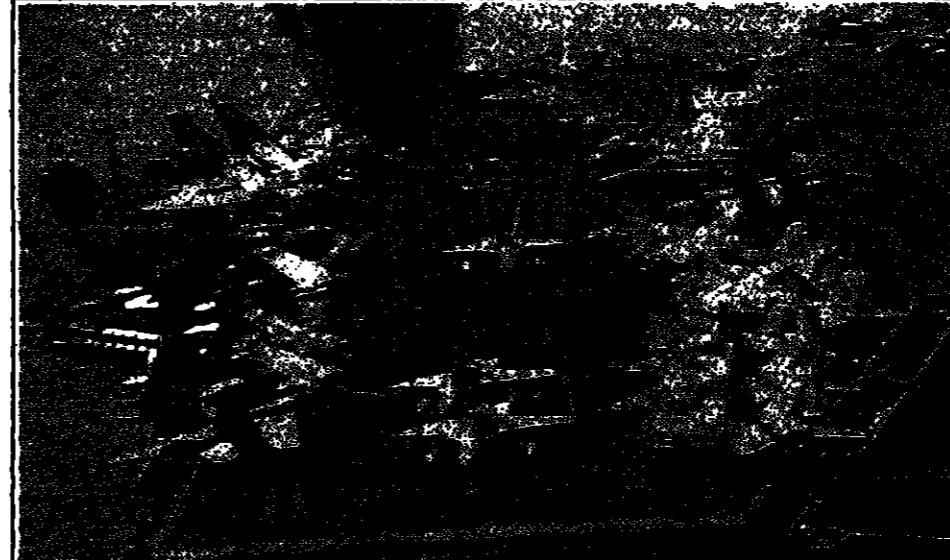
The views of Ms. Faisal and the government finally prevailed, with only 21 out of 46 deputies present voting in favour of the proposed amendment.

Islamic lawmakers had argued that wives were protecting women's rights by demanding that men receive tax exemption for the second, third and/or fourth wives. They said that all wives and all children should be entitled to the same tax-exemption.

"Is it right to include all children in the tax exemption and exclude the second, third and fourth wives?" said Islamic Action Front (IAF) Deputy Abdul Min'm Abu Zant. "Don't these wives have rights too? (Denying them the exemption) is unjust because polygamy is a remedy (to social problems) as well as a solution to unemployment."

Another IAF deputy, Abdul Aziz Jaber, said polygamy "is an actual reality in the Jordanian society. Why are we trying to deny it? Laws should go hand in hand with our traditions and way of life."

(Continued on page 7)



An aerial view of the flight deck of the USS Abraham Lincoln, which is anchored in the northern Gulf in high state of readiness after what the U.S. described as unusual Iraqi military movements (AP photo)

## Iraq reports 'new policy' towards U.N. demands

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Sunday it had adopted a "new policy of cooperation" with U.N. disarmament experts, as prospects dimmed for an early lifting of sanctions.

Baghdad also accused the United States of inventing pretenses to maintain United Nations sanctions placed on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The official daily Al Thawra called on the U.N. Security Council to "take the necessary measures" to implement resolutions providing for a lifting of the oil embargo once it is satisfied Iraq has destroyed all its weapons of mass destruction.

Iraq had invited him to Baghdad to unveil secret details of its weapons programme which it said were concealed by former Industry Minister Hussein Kamel Hassan, who defected to Jordan on Aug. 8.

Washington's ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, said Friday that Iraq was far from securing a lifting of sanctions because its latest revelations raised doubts about its credibility.

Diplomats in New York

said the voluminous documents submitted to UNSCOM will likely require months of analysis followed by verification on the ground, which would delay the moment when U.N. experts give a go-ahead for the end of sanctions.

That decision would be made by the Security Council, in which the United States — like fellow permanent members Britain, China, France, and Russia — has veto power.

Baghdad said the international community "is more and more receptive to Iraq's new attitude," adding that Russia had praised the "honesty" of the Iraqi government in revealing the advanced state of its weapons programme.

In New York, however, diplomats say the upcoming presidential race in the United States, where Iraq and the sale of real estate to Israelis.

(Continued on page 7)

## Crown Prince, Peres meet today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres met today to discuss issues related to the finalisation of Jordanian-Israeli agreements on cooperation in trade and transport as well as preparations for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit to be held in Amman in October. Jordanian and Israeli officials said yesterday.

They said the meetings, expected to be held in Aqaba, will also cover plans to upgrade the Aqaba airport to serve visitors to Jordan as well as Israel. Under an agreement signed in May in line with their Oct. 26 peace treaty, Jordan and Israel have agreed to offer joint tour packages to visitors.

Negotiating committees have drawn up draft agreements on transport and trade, and it is expected that today's meetings would give the final shape to the accords. "There are some problems hindering the finalisation, but we hope that these could be overcome," said a Jordanian source.

Mr. Peres will be accompanied to the meetings by Minister of Transport Yisrael Kessar as well as the head of the Israeli civil aviation authority in addition to negotiators. The Jordanian side is expected to include Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and other ministers and officials concerned with the proposed agreements in transport and trade.

Also expected to attend are the Jordanian and Israeli heads of a joint committee entrusted with supervising the implementation of the peace treaty.

When finalised, the agreement on transport will allow the entry of Jordanian and Israeli vehicles across to the borders of the two countries and will also have in place a firm accord on the use of airspace.

Royal Jordanian, the Kingdom's national carrier, started using Israeli airspace for its flights to and from Europe since April under an interim agreement that allowed RJ planes to fly at a maximum altitude of 17,000 feet. However, negotiators are seeking to increase the permitted altitude so as to make better benefit in terms of fuel and flying time.

The accord on transport will also complement the agreement on trade since it would allow Jordanian vehicles to carry goods directly across the border to their Israeli destinations and vice-versa.

The draft accord on cooperation in trade was drawn up after Israel dropped an insistence that the document should commit Jordan into entering a free trade accord with the Jewish state. "There are still a few minor points left to be worked out," a Jordanian source said last week.

The way for signing the trade and transport agreements were clear when Parliament last month adopted legislation that effectively nullified laws that banned any form of trade or other dealings with Israel and the sale of real estate to Israelis.

(Continued on page 7)

## Rabbani forces advance against Taliban militia

KABUL (Agencies) — Afghan government forces have driven Taliban fighters from part of the town of Girishk, 110 kilometres from the main Taliban stronghold of Kandahar in southern Afghanistan, a spokesman said.

President Burhanuddin Rabbani's defence spokesman, known as Dr. Abdullah, said government troops had pushed into Girishk, in Helmand province, on Saturday. He had no word on casualties.

Independent sources on Kandahar confirmed that part of Girishk had fallen to pro-Rabbani forces.

Dr. Abdullah told reporters government troops would attack Kandahar once Girishk was fully under their control.

"When we start to attack Kandahar we think there will be an internal uprising in support of the government," he said.

Pro-Rabbani forces launched an offensive against the Taliban on Wednesday with an attack on the town of Delaram, 270 kilometres south of the government-held city of Herat, ending a two-month-old unofficial ceasefire.

Since then they have pushed the Taliban 120 kilometres to Girishk on the border between Helmand and Kandahar provinces.

The Taliban emerged from obscurity 10 months ago, capturing Kandahar from discredited guerrilla warlords and advancing through several provinces to threaten Kabul.

It is estimated that at least 25,000 people, most of them civilians, have been killed in bitter factional fighting since Muslim insurgents threw out the communists from power in April 1992.

### Talibans demand meeting

The Taliban have been holding seven Russian airmen in Kandahar since August 3 when a Taliban MiG fighter forced their ammunition-laden Ilyushin-76 cargo plane to land there.

A Russian delegation visited Kandahar on Saturday, but failed to win the captives' release, Russia's ITAR-TASS news agency reported on Sunday.

It quoted a member of the delegation as saying that Taliban leaders had demanded that an international conference be held in Kandahar attended by representatives from the United Nations, the Organisation of Islamic Conference and Russia.

The rebels also demanded that Russia should undertake not to interfere in Afghanistan's internal affairs, the agency said.

Earlier, the Taliban had demanded a list of 60,000 Afghans alleged to have been deported to the former Soviet Union during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s. Moscow has denied it holds any Afghan prisoners.

While Mr. Rabbani's forces firmly control the Afghan capital, the country-side is controlled by rival warlords.

Mr. Rabbani controls roughly one-third of Afghanistan with the remaining two-thirds of Afghanistan divided among at least eight different groups.

## Harry Wu criticises Israel for military relations with China

TEL AVIV (AP) — Harry Wu, the human rights activist released from Chinese detention, criticised Israel on Sunday for its military cooperation with Beijing and called on the government to stop "dealing with evil."

Interviewed on Israel Radio, Mr. Wu said Israel had made "a very, very bad decision" and should withhold support because the Chinese government was putting people in concentration camps just like the Nazis did.

"If the Israeli people are really concerned about concentration camps, concerned about the Nazi fascists, they have to apply the same principle to China," said Mr. Wu, speaking from his home in Milpitas, California.

"Of course, Israel has its own problem with Iran, Iraq and Syria. But if you are dealing with an evil how can you need another evil to support you?" said Mr. Wu, returned to the United States over the weekend.

This is very terrible. I know that Israeli military experts are right now in China working very hard with Chinese military," he added.

Reacting to Mr. Wu's accusations, a Foreign Ministry official said: "Israel is not really the main support of China in any sense, so I am surprised at his attack. It's not like the Chinese regime is depending on Israel and would crumble if it withdrew its support."

Israeli officials have re-

fused to comment on persistent foreign reports that Israel is selling weapons and military technology to China, including the upgrade of Chinese tanks.

Israel and China established diplomatic relations in 1992, and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who is also the defence minister, and the army chief of staff have visited Beijing.

Mr. Wu, 58, was arrested June 19 while trying to enter China at a remote border crossing and later sentenced to 15 years in prison and expulsion on charges of espionage. It was his fifth trip there since 1991 to document human rights abuses in the country's extensive prison labour camps.

## Iran accuses Europeans of not helping it in drug war

NICOSIA (AP) — A leader of Iran's anti-narcotics campaign was quoted Sunday as criticising European countries for not helping that campaign, which he claimed was intercepting large amounts of drugs destined for those states.

Instead, noted Mohammad Fallah, European authorities "have adopted a hostile attitude and exert political pressure on us," he was quoted as saying in Sunday's edition of the English-language Tehran daily, Iran News.

"Iran is playing a crucial role in blocking the flow of drugs to Europe," said Mr. Fallah, secretary of the national anti-drug campaign.

"Last year we confiscated 25 tonnes of morphine destined for that continent, but we expect the Europeans to cooperate with us."

Despite the lack of cooperation, he said, Iran will follow the teachings of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, "who said that 'the salvation of one addict is the salvation of mankind.'

He vowed that Iran's anti-narcotics offensive, launched in December 1988, will continue, noting "this is a complicated and sensitive task and is best carried out with multi-national cooperation."

Over the last eight years, Iranian authorities have arrested thousands of narcotics smugglers and dealers, executing more than 1,000 in public hangings. Several hundred security personnel have been killed in gunbattles with armed bands of smugglers.

Hundreds of thousands of addicts have been rounded up and thrown into special harsh-regime rehabilitation camps.

Thousands of tonnes of heroin, opium, morphine and other narcotics, much of it from neighbouring Afghanistan and Pakistan, have been seized, according to Iranian authorities.

Last year, the U.S. State Department accused Iran of allowing its territory to be used as a "major point" of transit for South Asian heroin destined for the United States and Europe.

Iran denied that and U.N. drug control officials conceded that the Islamic republic

was making a determined effort to halt the flood of drugs through its territory.

Mr. Fallah said Iran was also trying to stop drug trafficking by buying wheat at high prices from farmers in Afghanistan to encourage them to grow the crop instead of opium.

Mr. Fallah said farmers in Afghanistan produced 5,000 tonnes of opium annually.

A United Nations Drug Control Programme survey says Afghanistan produces more opium than any other country, much of it in remote tribal regions close to the border with Iran.

Mr. Fallah said Iran's President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani "made public a sweeping plan through which he offered attractive and useful incentives to the Afghan farmers for substitute farming."

"As an incentive to Afghan farmers to produce wheat instead of opium... Rafsanjani has offered to purchase wheat from Afghan farmers..." at triple the price paid to Iranian wheat farmers.

"Actually, the plan is currently being implemented in Afghanistan's heart province..." Mr. Fallah said in the interview.

## Bus ride in Israel becomes a paranoid trip

Agence France Presse

TEL AVIV — After seven militant attacks on buses in 16 months, causing 73 dead and hundreds injured, fewer Israelis are mustering the courage to take public transportation.

Those who have no choice but to take the bus find the trip filled with anxiety and paranoid stares.

Carrying sacks full of groceries, Mansur Simanov silently takes his seat on bus number six in Jerusalem. The other passengers cast a suspicious eye at the 70-year-old retiree.

"It's always the same thing after an attack. My sacks cause panic on the bus. People think my potatoes are bombs," he said.

Every trip provokes fear, says Michele Lindenman, 57, who takes the bus almost daily to a jewellery store where she is a saleswoman. "I'm playing cat-and-mouse with death," she said.

Mrs. Lindenman changes lines frequently or quickly

gets off a bus if there is a face she does not recognise.

The national bus cooperative Egged said its passenger load has fallen 20 per cent since April 6, 1994. That was the day a Palestinian suicide bomber rammed a car full of explosives into a bus in the northern town of Afula, killing eight Israelis.

The last attack, on Aug. 21 in occupied Jerusalem, killed four passengers when a Palestinian militant opposed to peace with Israel blew himself up on board line 26.

The latest bombing prompted the United States to warn its citizens on Friday to avoid using public transportation, especially buses and bus stops, in Israel and Gaza.

According to a poll taken by the Maariv daily newspaper after the attack, 29 per cent of Israelis interviewed said they were trying to avoid taking the bus. 52 per cent said they would continue to do so and 19 per cent said they never

took the bus.

The repeated attacks have caused a heightened sense of panic, according to Guiora Keinan, a psychologist at Tel Aviv University.

He said he has treated numerous people suffering from "bus phobia" over the last few months. For example, one individual walks 10 kilometres (six miles) to work and back since a bus attack in Tel Aviv in October 1994 that left 22 dead.

"Some have become unable to look at a bus, even in films, or come near them," Mr. Keinan said.

"It's a natural and human fear, and bringing it out helps to overcome it," he added.

Dozens of worried bus passengers filed behind a coffin Friday in Jerusalem to protest against Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who have continued talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) despite the wave of attacks.

The bombings have sparked a fiery debate in Israel about how much force to use in the interrogation of Palestinian suspects, especially after the two believed behind the August 21 attack had been in Israeli police custody only two days earlier.

## Slapstick play offers rare laugh in Baghdad

President Saddam and everything he loves.

Mr. Sarig had one play shut by the government because it criticised schoolteachers.

He remains unfazed, saying his next play will be entitled, "The Minister's Party," and will focus on official corruption.

His current play is tame in political terms, but it shows the modern, secular side of Baghdad that is often overlooked amid its problems with the United States and other Western countries.

The young men of the market dress in blue jeans and greet each other by slapping high-fives. The women flirt, shake their hips when they walk and speak in double entendres.

The market gossip moves from the poor quality of government-rationed flour to the merits of leaving Iraq for the West.

The people of London have never loved an Arab and they never will," one middle-aged man tells his nephew, an artist determined to seek his fortune abroad.

The slapstick gives the play mass appeal and draws an audience made up mostly of families. Children break into laughter at the round man who sells water is insulted down a nemesi half his size.

The characters magically appear in London in the second act, and complications down a nemesi half his size.

One Iraqi explains that he was detained by airport police after they asked if he had any explosives. He answered with the only English word he knew: "Yes."

The men discover whiskey, which they like all too well. They are shocked — and intrigued — when they see men and women touch in public. In a jab at the rich Arabs of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the poor Iraqis ask a wealthy sheikh for a loan, only to be rejected.

In the end, they decide it is best to head back to Iraq.

"A drop of water in Iraq is worth a mountain of gold in a foreign land," says one character.

"A simple message, perhaps, but the audience approves with a standing ovation.

## Announcement

Entries for the Theory Examination of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music will be accepted until Thursday 31 August 1995. The Theory examination will be held on Saturday, November 4, 1995.

For registration and further information please contact the local representative:

The National Music Conservatory / Noor Al Hussein Foundation  
Jabel Amman, Atiyat Building, Behind the Embassy of Kuwait  
P.O.Box 926687, Amman / Jordan  
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14:30 .. Hoy Day

15:00 .. Survival

17:00 .. Families

17:30 .. Children's programme — Rahah

18:00 .. Drama — Le Meilleur Du Silence

19:15 .. News in French

19:30 .. French Varieties

19:35 .. News Headlines

19:35 .. Camp Wilder

20:30 .. McHale's Navy

21:15 .. The Bold and the Beautiful

21:30 .. Hearts of the West

22:25 .. News in English

23:25 .. The Ruth Rendell's Mystery Film: "Marmic"

### PRAYER TIMES

04:42 .. Fajr

(Sunrise) Dhuha

12:37 .. Dhruh

16:14 .. Asr'

19:11 .. Maghrib

20:32 .. Isha'

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Assemblies of God Church, Tel.

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Dr. Khalid M'addi .. 743541

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Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.

75261

# Home News

## Prime minister calls for establishing official administrative training units

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Sunday issued a communiqué to all government departments with instructions for the creation of units for the administrative development and training of civil servants.

These administrative and training units are to conduct studies and surveys on identifying department needs, establishing plans and programmes for training employees and supervising the implementation of these

programmes, the communiqué stated.

The creation of these units are needed for the implementation of His Majesty King Hussein's directives to the government to help develop public administration services and functions, the Prime Minister was quoted as saying in his circular.

The communiqué followed a cabinet meeting which endorsed a system through which some of the Prime Minister's authorities would

be referred to ministers, especially in matters related to the transfer of employees to other departments, sending employees in work abroad, and sending employees on scholarships and training courses.

In another statement following the cabinet meeting, the government endorsed an allowance to dentists employed by the Health Ministry at the rate of 100 per cent of their basic salaries.

The cabinet also formed two Jordanian delegations. One delegation to the Arab League's council meeting in Cairo to be held on Sept. 20 will be headed by Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabarit. The other delegation for a meeting by the Arab Social and Economic Council in Cairo on Sept. 3, will be headed by Dr. Mohammad Basit Hanafi, assistant secretary-general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

## Israeli embassy says no change in visa regulations for Jordanians

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Israeli embassy here on Sunday denied that it had changed regulations concerning the issuance of visas to stem what reports in the Israeli and Palestinian press have described as a flow of Jordanians to the Jewish state in search of work.

"There has been no change in the regulations since we started issuing visas on Aug. 1," said a spokesman for the embassy.

"We issue visas to groups for tourism purposes as well as for business and people who wish to visit Israel for professional reasons, such as journalists," the spokesman told the Jordan Times.

The embassy also issues visas for "emergency purposes" in the event of a death in the family or for pressing medical treatment at Israeli hospitals, the spokesman added.

The denial came amid reports carried by Israeli and Palestinian newspapers that as many as 3,000 Jordanian passport holders were staying in Israel or in the occupied territories although their visas had expired.

The Hebrew-language Ma'ariv daily said 11,300 Jordanians had crossed the border in May and June but only 9,300 had returned to Jordan.

Other newspapers, including Israel's Yediot Ahronot as well as two Palestinian dailies, reported in the past months that dozens of Jordanians were expected across the border after they were found to have overstayed their visas.

Jordanian officials have denied the reports. The Ministry of Labour also rejected reports that Jordanians were seeking jobs in Israel and that Israel had approached the Jordanian government with a request for Jordanian workers.

According to Ma'ariv, the Israeli ministry of interior is now allowing the issuance of only one-month visas for Jordanian tourists to Israel. Previously the period of stay was three months.

However, the embassy spokesman here said the period of stay was decided on the basis of the time Jordanians intended to remain in Israel as part of their groups.

"They have to go in a group and return in the same group," said the spokesman.

Asked about the reported overstays, the spokesman said he had also heard of the reports, but that the embassy had no specific figures or details of the affair.

The spokesman noted that although

the embassy was opened in December, nearly two months after the signing of the Oct. 26 Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, the mission did not start issuing visas until August.

In the meantime, it helped facilitate the issuance of visas and entry permits by the Israeli ministry of interior for businessmen, professionals and "emergency" visitors.

According to community sources, many of the Jordanian visitors to Israel are of Palestinian origin with families and relatives in the occupied West Bank, and, in the face of an Israeli refusal to grant them residence permits in the occupied territory, they opt to stay on despite the expiry of the visa.

"However, it is unlikely that they are in the thousands," said one source. "First of all, Israel does not issue visas easily to people of Palestinian origin. Every application filed from Amman (before the embassy started issuing visas) used to be thoroughly checked and the applicant was closely screened."

"Israelis would not admit it, but this used to be the case," added the source. As such, he said, not many Jordanians of Palestinian origin could have made their way to the West Bank and decided to stay on there.

## Jordan's position in Beijing to be based on Islamic faith, Arab traditions, says Princess Basma

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's position at the World Conference on Women, opening in Beijing Sept. 4, is based on Islamic faith and Arab traditions of defining the family as the basic unit of society, and as provided for in the National Strategy on Women, the Jordanian Constitution, and the National Charter, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma said Sunday.

Addressing a press conference at the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF), the Princess said that the Jordanian delegation, comprising government and non-governmental organisations, agree on two important issues: active participation in all conference activities and the coordination of positions with other Arab and Islamic delegations at the conference.

Princess Basma, who is leading the Jordanian delegation to Beijing, said the delegation will reaffirm Jordan's absolute commitment to all international resolutions and covenants on women.

She said that Jordan's position at the conference conforms with all broadlines contained within the international draft document prepared by the United Nations, and in particular supports



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday addresses a press conference at Queen Alia Fund premises to announce Jordan's position regarding issues to be discussed at the U.N. conference on women in Beijing (Reuters photo)

the clause that underlines the need for equality between men and women.

In her press conference convened to expound Jordan's position in Beijing, the

Princess stressed that the Kingdom is aware of and deeply concerned over the question of poverty which, she said, has direct negative effects on women.

This awareness motivates Jordan to call for cooperation between rich and poor countries to ensure investments that create jobs, and curtail unemployment and poverty, the Princess said.

The Princess also said that she will speak on the Kingdom's drive to offer equal and non-discriminatory opportunities to men and women and in efforts to eradicate illiteracy.

The delegation will outline the Kingdom's endeavours and achievements in providing health services, spreading public health awareness, and establishing primary care and mother and child health services.

The Princess said that the delegation will stress the rights of women in decision-making at all levels, in the contribution through peaceful means to the settlement of disputes, in ending racial discrimination and in ensuring women's rights to equal pay and treatment in all occupations.

## Petra gets specialised cleaning services

*Standards of hygiene imperative with influx of tourists*

By Ghala Akl  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Executive Vice-President of Texas Technology University (TTU) Donald Haragan Sunday ended a week-long visit to the University of Jordan (UJ) to offer suggestions and recommendations on the reformation of academic disciplines and departments.

Paying the visit at the request of UJ Vice-President for Academic Affairs Mohammad Maqusi, Dr. Haragan discussed the organisation of university departments and guest centres.

UJ President Fawzi Gharibeh also attended the meetings.

Dr. Haragan said that the reformative process is required at UJ in order to increase the quality of academic programmes and at the same time to increase the operative efficiency of these programmes, especially in the face of UJ's declining resources and facilities.

keeping the city, famous for its treasury carved in the rock, clean for visitors, said the official.

Petra, the mainstay of Jordan's tourism industry, attracts thousands of Jordanian visitors and foreign tourists throughout the year.

The number of tourists visiting Petra has substantially increased since the signing of the peace treaty with Israel last year.

This sudden upsurge in the number of visitors has put more pressure on the city's touristic sites and facilities, which include the Roman city of Jerash and Wadi Rum.

Specialised cleaning services became imperative in light of the increased volume of tourists visiting Jordan's world-famous ancient city about 290 kilometres south of Amman, the official said.

Established norms and procedures will be followed to supervise the company's work and ensure that it is

1994 contributed \$60 million to the treasury and is expected to earn even more this year.

About 446,000 tourists visited Jordan in the first half of 1995 compared to 317,000 who came to the Kingdom in the same period during 1994.

The ministry official said that if the assessment of the Petra project, which will be paid for from the ministry's budget, is positive, similar cleaning services will be applied in other touristic sites in the Kingdom, such as the Roman city of Jerash and Wadi Rum.

Many complaints have been made about the lack of cleanliness at Petra and other touristic attractions in Jordan.

The Kingdom is endowed with some 600 archaeological sites that attract tourists from the Arab World, Europe, the United States and, recently, Israel.

**WHAT'S GOING ON**

DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '95 EXHIBITIONS

\* Works of graphic art by several artists.

\* Photography show "Elements in Harmony" by Hala Hodieb.

\* Display of painted stone and steel, "Embargo Art" by Iraqi artist Nuha Al Radi.

\* "Early Morning Scribbles" by Lebanese artist Amin Al Basha and Jordanian artist Rajwa Bint Ali and "Late Night Scribbles" by Amin Al Basha and artist Ali Bermamat.

\* Sculpture by Rajwa Bint Ali.

\* 3-D experiments in calligraphy by Usama Khalidi.

**EXHIBITIONS**

\* Abstract art by the late artist Adnan Hilu at the Royal Cultural Centre.

\* Oil paintings by Yassin Al Mohammadawi at Baladna Art Gallery.

\* Paintings by "Pioneers of the Fifties" Isma'il and Suzanne Al Sheikly, Khalid Qassab, and Dr. Nuri Behjet at Orfali Art Gallery, Um Utheina.

## Stone faces, scrap metal bodies, and an art about human suffering

By May Muzaffar  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The world created by Nuha Radi, as displayed in an exhibition in the lush gardens of Darat Al Funun, Jebel Weibdeh, is undoubtedly a mixture of contemplated thought and fantasy.

The artist's work, created through the use of stone and scrap metal, is laid out in randomly but strategically chosen areas of the gardens at Darat Al Funun.

Jordan, Syria discuss trade relations

Damascus (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb Sunday discussed with his Syrian counterpart Mohammed Al Imadi here means of bolstering bilateral trade relations and enhancing commercial exchange. Mr. Abul Ragheb said he reviewed with Mr. Imadi commercial protocols and minutes of meetings signed by Jordanian and Syrian officials. Mr. Abul Ragheb is currently in Syria to chair the Jordanian side to the meetings of the Jordanian-Syrian Trade Committee, which started here late Sunday. The committee will discuss the mechanisms of the economic agreements between both countries.

Ms. Radi has visualised her world without inhibitions, freely collecting her material out of car parts and scrap metal and rounded stones to create images which, she believes, fit in with the prevailing situation of the Iraqi people.

Despite her exposure to prominent Arab powers, Ms. Radi chose to break abruptly from an art she once practised upon discovering an innate feeling that she could no longer work with clay.

This could be yet a further stage as evidence from what she told me on one occasion:

"Maybe I'll come back." Looking for alternate means of expression, Ms. Radi turned to painting. Being primarily motivated by form in its three dimensional shape, Ms. Radi used the form physically rather than through illusionary means.

Her favourite theme is portraits of people close and intimate to her.

An interest in archaeology also brought her close to history and nature, close to its elementary objects.

For over a year now, she has been painstakingly looking for a means of expression whereby she can reflect herself through the use of ready-made materials.

The medium she now chooses is stones. Ms. Radi is fascinated by their shapes and ability to be transformed into different forms. The result of this experience was shown in an exhibition first held in Beirut and later in Baghdad. The display in Beirut was open air, close to nature, which she believes to be the womb and grave.

In Baghdad, subjected to the injustice caused by the sanctions, Ms. Radi searched for fresh materials which she came across only by chance. It was in scrap metal that she discovered the possibility of developing

an art language of her own. To her, those objects came to reflect an expression which she would elaborate on to maintain a sense of reality, and it is through these objects that she gives shape to her world.

The objects mainly reflect people, different sorts of people handled by the artist with deep affection.

Although dressed up colourfully, they never fail to exhibit their shabby and miserable appearance, a fair and apt reflection of real circumstances.

The stone and metal statues have a life of their own but they lack something very essential: Security. They seem threatened. They are fragile, ready to fall apart at any moment, yet they carry on their daily life, get married, have children, observe beauty and die. Life goes on irrespective of the hard conditions, as inevitable as death.

Ms. Radi's world, absurd as it may seem, is real. Its reality comes from the fact that the uncertainty which characterises those human beings, does not simply reflect the present, it retains a long history as well.

The stone and metal people stand poised helplessly,



Metal scrap people in colourful tones. The artist uses the strong contrast of metal and colour to create thematic tension.

staring back in vain, taking us back to an ancient history where 'Abu' (the most characterised Sumerian statue) and his family stood as witnesses to an uncertain

future. Nuha Radi's exhibition will run until Sept. 28.

The writer is an Iraqi poet and art critic. She contributed this article to the Jordan Times.



Artist Nuha Radi's stone-faced family in close-knit space

## Fresh fighting erupts in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (AFP) — Fresh fighting erupted in eastern Sri Lanka Sunday as elite police commandos moved against jungle bases of Tamil Tiger guerrillas triggering heavy gun battles, official sources said.

The Special Task Force (STF) commandos carried out attacks in the Batticaloa district against the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a day after the rebels attacked an STF jungle base in the region, the sources said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties in Sunday's fighting but on Saturday the STF claimed to have killed at least 36 rebels for the loss of six of its own men, including an officer. Eleven STF constables were wounded.

Security forces recovered 24 LTTE bodies while ground troops confirmed that rebels had removed at least 12 more bodies. The military claimed that the rebel casualties could be higher.

The failed bid to attack the STF camp was the latest setback suffered by the rebels, who lost more than 300 fighters in an attack against the main Weli Oya military base in the northeast.

Meanwhile, thousands of people in Sri Lanka's beleaguered north face hunger due to a standoff between the Red Cross and the government ahead of a widely expected army offensive against the Tamil rebel stronghold, officials said Sunday.

A rebel radio broadcast by the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said a U.N. observer was discussing the food emergency with guerrilla leaders on the stronghold on the Jaffna peninsula in the north.

Three-hundred-thousand people are threatened by the month-old food crisis, brought on by the suspension of food shipments after the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) refused to escort government vessels because of safety fears.

An official quoted the government agent in Jaffna as saying: "There is no more food in government stores."

Jaffna government agent K. Ponnampalam last week appealed directly to President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga to intervene in the dispute.

Diplomats said government forces had apparently prepared an elaborate plan

for a major assault on Jaffna, headquarters of Tiger chief Velupillai Prabhakaran, before the next rainy season, due in less than two months.

They were, however, divided in seeing a link between the suspension of food supplies to Jaffna and the government's war strategy.

"If people starve, more and more of them will join the LTTE war effort," a diplomat told Reuters. "It doesn't make sense for the government to deliberately cut food supplies to Jaffna."

Others said the suspension

of food shipments to the northern region had enabled Colombo to pressure the Tigers to open two strategic land routes.

If the LTTE is interested

in ensuring that the people they are seeking to "liberate" are adequately fed... why do they keep the land route through Elephant Pass and Ponneriy blocked?" said a pro-government Daily News Sunday.

Senior Tiger commanders, bracing for the government offensive, have fanned out across the peninsula, setting up roadblocks and ringing their positions with mines, diplomats said.

"They don't appear to be



Employees of the Beijing International Convention Centre (BICC) arrange the United Nations flag at the head of national flags of U.N. member countries. The U.N.'s Fourth World Conference will open at the BICC on Sept. 4 (AFP photo)

## Women arrive in China for NGO forum

BEIJING (Agencies) —

Hundreds of Chinese workers in pink shirts welcomed thousands of women arriving Sunday to a grassroots forum in Beijing, but customs forced one human rights group to tear a cartoon of Deng Xiaoping out of a book.

In subsequent revival of operations to Point Pedro of a

pro-Tiger bias, denied by the ICRC.

The ICRC has security guarantees for Point Pedro from the Tigers, fighting for a homeland in the north and east, but not for Kankesantura, where a mine sank an ICRC vessel earlier this year, killing an Indonesian crew member.

Organisers estimated about 2,000 people were arriving in Beijing Sunday for the non governmental organisation (NGO) forum on women that begins Wednesday in suburban Hairou, transformed from a sleepy tourist town in the shadow of the Great Wall to frantic host for nearly 30,000 women.

"The Chinese are trying their best," NGO convenor Supatra Masdit told Reuters. "They give it to everything we request. We never expected this, it is a lot better than I expected."

Hundreds of English-speaking student volunteers, identifiable by their pastel pink shirts, struggled to help women pouring off flights into Beijing's capital airport. "How do I get to my hotel?" "How much do I have to pay?" "Please write down for me the address of my hotel in Chinese" were some of the appeals from women arriving from Nigeria, Spain and Britain.

A military delegation from Ghana, whose President Jerry Rawlings helped broker the peace accord, visited the towns of Buchanan, Kakata and Tubmanburg Saturday to assess the situation.

The chairman has charged my team to go round and monitor how the warring factions are responding to the ceasefire and the general reaction of the people," delegation leader Brigadier Francis Agyemfa told reporters.

For most women, the biggest problem at the airport was a shortage of baggage carts.

For the organising committee of the People's Decade For Human Rights Education, the problem was customs.

Customs officials spent two hours sifting through the 16 boxes of materials group members had brought for their forum workshop, removed sample leaflets and balked at a book with a cartoon caricaturing Chinese paramount leader Deng Xiaoping.

"They looked at it, and looked at it and found a

picture of a cartoon of a Chinese dictator, saying 'no human rights here.' They were very offended," executive director Shulamith Koenig said in an interview.

"I told them I will not leave until I get my book back. I tore the page out and gave it to them and they let me go with my book," she said.

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A military delegation from Ghana, whose President Jerry Rawlings helped broker

# World News

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 1995

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A Polynesian woman carrying a young girl walks past a monument erected by organizers of an anti-nuclear rally in Papeete (AFP photo)

## Gunmen kill Pakistani employee of U.S. agency

KARACHI (R) — Gunmen killed a Pakistani employee of the U.S. Drug Enforcement agency (DEA) and wounded his son in Karachi Sunday.

The U.S. embassy said in a statement that Mohammad Shah Nawaz Toor, who worked for the DEA at the U.S. consulate in Karachi, had been shot dead at a bus stop near his home.

His son Muhammad Khurram Toor was wounded in the attack.

"The identity, affiliations and motives of the gunmen are not known at this time," the embassy statement said.

The statement differed

from a police account, which said that Mr. Toor, a 40-year-old retired army major, and his son had been in a car with a driver when a lone gunman on a motorcycle attacked them in the north Nazimabad area of central district.

The gunman stopped near Mr. Toor's Suzuki Alto car at about 7:30 a.m. (0230 GMT) and fired six shots at close range, a police spokesman in Karachi said.

Three bullets hit Mr. Toor, who collapsed and died on the spot. His 16-year-old son was wounded and was taken to the Abbasi State Hospital by the driver, who was unharmed.

Mr. Toor's son was con-

sious when taken to hospital, where he waved photographers away, saying: "I don't want this nonsense." He was placed in an intensive care unit after surgery.

More than 1,300 people have been killed in ethnic, sectarian and factional violence in Karachi this year.

Two U.S. consulate officials were shot dead and a third was wounded by gunmen who ambushed their minibus in the southern port city on March 8. The attackers have not been caught.

After that incident the consulate closed its visa section, cut staff and sent dependents of remaining U.S. diplomats

to a wide variety of issues and concerns," he said.

For China, the crucial issue of the meetings was Taiwan, as made clear by Xinhua's account of Mr. Tarnoff's meeting with Mr. Qian.

Mr. Qian told Mr. Tarnoff that the basis of Sino-U.S. relations was three joint communiques reached by the two Asia-Pacific giants, with the Taiwan issue as a core.

One aspect was to help prepare for a meeting between Mr. Qian and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in New York in late September at the U.N. General Assembly and a possible meeting of the presidents of the two countries in late October in the United States, Mr. Tarnoff said.

"We agreed both sides

would need to prepare thor-

oughly for such a meeting, making every effort to discuss frankly and in a constructive spirit a wide variety of issues and concerns," he said.

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China hopes that such kind of event will never occur," Mr. Qian was quoted as saying.

But the United States has been unwilling to give a formal guarantee that it would not allow any more such visits.

China has viewed Taiwan

## U.S., China differences remain over Taiwan

BEIJING (R) — China and the United States failed to bridge their differences over Taiwan but agreed to prepare for possible meetings of their presidents, U.S. Under-Secretary of State Peter Tarnoff said Sunday.

Mr. Tarnoff met China's Foreign Minister Qian Qichen after talks with Vice-

Foreign Minister Li Zehong

Saturday in a two-day visit to Beijing aimed at warming chilly Sino-U.S. relations.

China's official Xinhua News Agency has said its ties have plunged to their lowest point in 16 years amid Beijing's fury at a Washington decision to allow a landmark private visit by President Lee Teng-Hui of rival Taiwan last June.

"While on the substance

the differences (over Taiwan) were not bridged, I think that we did have a full airing of views and there was a commitment on both sides that there are other aspects of the relationship which we are determined to proceed to work on together," Mr. Tarnoff told a news conference.

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## Seaplane crashes into U.S. restaurant; 5 killed

NEW SHOREHAM, Rhode Island (AP) — A seaplane exploded, causing a fire that destroyed the single-story, wood-frame building, which also housed a gas station. The plane narrowly missed the two gas pumps.

"It was like the whole world exploded," said Corrie Heinz, a bartender at a tavern across the street from Sharkey's.

Christopher McGinniss, a gas station attendant, said he

shouted at people eating on an outside deck at the restaurant to get out of the way. They fled and the plastic chairs and tables on the deck melted, he said.

McGinniss and three other people were in the restaurant at a counter when the plane crashed but it was unclear how many customers were on the deck.

Four people died immediately in the 1:15 p.m. crash, New Shoreham Police Chief William McCombe said.

said. They included the pilot, two of his three passengers and the person in the car.

The other airplane passenger who had third-degree burns over 90 per cent of his body, died Saturday night at a Providence hospital, officials said.

Chief McCombe said the plane had taken off from East Hampton, New York, and was carrying three men and a woman. He did not have any further details.

## Reynolds, Clinton pressure U.K. on N. Ireland

DUBLIN (R) — Former Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds, co-author of an Anglo-Irish peace plan for Northern Ireland, put pressure on Britain Sunday to stop linking peace talks to the surrender of IRA arms.

Reynolds, an influential peace-maker despite his resignation last December, said the London government should convene all-party Northern Ireland peace talks now and discuss the surrender of IRA and other guns as part of a settlement.

"I believe that, instead of making it a precondition for talks, the decommissioning of arms should be made a condition for agreement at the end of the day," he told BMTV television.

British Prime Minister John Major is adamant that the IRA (Irish Republican Army) and its Protestant loyalist rivals must start decommissioning weapons to win an invitation to new talks to build a lasting settlement to the province's 25-year Post.

The issue is crucial as the province counts down to the first anniversary next week of the IRA ceasefire that ushered in an unprecedented period of peace and the start of a peace process which is

currently deadlocked. Gerry Adams, who heads the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein, has repeatedly warned that the year-long peace could break down unless there are moves towards convening new talks to create a new and peaceful "agreed Ireland."

Mr. Reynolds' view, which is likely to be cold-shouldered by the London government, was echoed in a leaked letter by U.S. President Bill Clinton which underlined differences between Washington and London over the peace process.

Mr. Clinton told Congressmen Bruce Morrison, key figure in the U.S. Irish lobby, that the talks should cover key issues of dispute between Britain, Irish nationalists and pro-British Unionists, including arms decommissioning.

"I would expect all-party talks to address policing, prisoner releases, decommissioning of weapons and other issues," said Mr. Clinton, whose letters was leaked to the Dublin Sunday Business Post.

His views are likely to annoy the British government, which says Washington has fallen out before over Mr. Clinton's calls for a rapid move towards all-party talks.

The American president is

due to visit Britain and Ireland in November and Irish republicans, especially Sinn Fein, are hoping he will be able to throw Washington's weight behind moves to steer the peace process out of deadlock.

Mr. Major and Irish Prime Minister John Bruton are due to meet in Dublin soon for a summit to coincide with the first anniversary of the ceasefire but lack of progress on the arms issue is hampering efforts to fix a date, Irish sources said.

British and Irish officials are working on proposals to break the deadlock which could include setting up an international commission to discuss how decommissioning would take place, Irish officials said.

But, they said, Britain wants to see the start of a surrender of weapons used in a war that killed 3,200, especially stocks of Semtex plastic explosives which might be used at any time to bomb London or Belfast if the talks break down.

The Pope spoke in English to pilgrims after his angelus address at his summer residence outside Rome.

Fifteen people, mostly policemen, were hurt in running battles between the authorities and Roman Catholic and Protestant youths in Northern Ireland's western border town of Castlederg, police said Sunday.

The American president is

opinion poll in Dublin's Sunday Tribune newspaper said that 61 per cent of those surveyed favoured convening all-party talks at the same time as talks on decommissioning.

Britain has rejected this

## France tells peace fleet to stay away from nuclear test zone

PAPEETE (Agencies) —

France Saturday stepped up warnings to a protest flotilla to stay away from Mururoa Atoll, as the Greenpeace flagship Rainbow Warrior II came within a day's sailing of a French fleet protecting the nuclear test site.

The warning that France would stringently defend the exclusion zone declared around the atolls also came as 3,000 demonstrators gathered in the French Pacific capital to protest against the planned resumption of nuclear tests next month.

The Greenpeace rally, called by the influential Evangelical Church of French Polynesia, was a sign that even in the French Pacific territory, the tests are opposed.

Demonstrators, assembled around a so-called Village of Peace, prayed against the tests and waved banners reading "No to the bomb, yes to life." Other protests are planned by other groups from Monday.

But the French Navy signalled its intention to seal off Mururoa and the neighbouring test atoll of Fangatau in written warnings to skippers of the peace fleet, that will be led by Rainbow Warrior II.

France has 15 vessels defending the entrance to the Mururoa lagoon where the tests are held. And Vice-Admiral Philippe Euvrard, head of French Armed Forces in the South Pacific, warned in a letter given to the skippers that the test zone was strictly out-of-bounds.

The letter has already been given to the New Zealand Navy survey vessel Tui, which is to accompany the flotilla as far as the exclusion zone. It has also been given to the Greenpeace yacht Vega and one other yacht.

More than 20 ships and yachts are on the way to Mururoa with declared intention of stopping the series of eight underground nuclear blasts, that have been condemned by many countries.

Mr. Qian told Mr. Tarnoff that the Lee visit had serious consequences for Sino-U.S. relations, and greatly hurt the feelings of the Chinese people and fuelled tension between Taiwan and China.

"China hopes that such kind of event will never occur," Mr. Qian was quoted as saying.

But the United States has been unwilling to give a formal guarantee that it would not allow any more such visits.

China has viewed Taiwan

expected to join the Vega and a Danish copy of Viking drakkar, the Bifrost, near Mururoa's territorial waters Sunday (French Polynesia time).

In June, France suspended the right of "innocent passage" in a 12 nautical mile zone around the two atolls until May next year when the nuclear tests are scheduled to be finished.

"If you contravene this prohibition, you will be liable to prosecution under French law," the admiral said in the letter, which has been printed in English, Spanish and French.

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By Dr. Waleed Sa'adi

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
Faz-Nahid 1975

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## Travel into next century

**WHAT A relief** to hear that at last Jordan and Syria have started talks on how to make land transport between the two countries more "civil." A Jordanian-Syrian committee under the co-chairmanship of Mr. Awad Tel, secretary-general of the Ministry of Transport, and Mr. Omar Shurbaji, adviser to the Syrian transport minister, has actually begun negotiations in Amman to facilitate border crossings for passengers and goods. The objective is to make transport more manageable and bearable by reducing formalities and bureaucracy to a minimum, especially now that traffic between the two Arab states is on the rise.

We cannot expect to make border crossings between the two neighbouring countries as smooth as the case is in the "civilised" world but we certainly hope that crossing from Jordan to Syria and vice versa will not be as hard as travelling in different worlds. A good beginning for the two teams is to acknowledge the efficacy of Europe's experience in organising travel. Jordan and Syria need to see how European countries have managed to control smuggling, trafficking in illegal goods and maintained safety and security to their respective citizens without the outmoded methods still deployed especially on the Syrian side.

To be fair, Jordan has gone a long way to improve cross-border transport whether for goods or passengers. Any traveller can easily detect the dramatic difference between Jordanian and Syrian ways in dealing with traffic across their respective control points. Still Jordan can do a lot more, and there is every indication that our authorities are keen on introducing new ways to deal with the remaining problems.

On the other hand, the Syrians are nowhere near doing enough to make crossing into their country "acceptable," in this day and age. It is always an agonising experience to cross into Syria due to exaggerated routine, unnecessary complications and the terse manner of dealing with travellers.

More than 15 years ago Jordan and Syria made a serious effort to make border crossings between the two sides as easy as possible. There has been a relapse, unfortunately, probably reflecting political changes over the years. We think that the problem will not be solved with anything short of intervention by senior government officials in both Damascus and Amman.

We hope that the current visit by Minister of Trade and Industry Ali Abul Raghib to Damascus would be an opportunity to address the problem for the purpose of making travel across the borders suitable for the mentality of the twenty-first century.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A DECISION by the Council of Higher Education to accept only around 10,000 students out of more than 28,000 who passed this year's tawjiji examinations in the five state-run universities, came under strong criticism by a writer in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday. The parents of all those who passed the examination this year with grades ranging from 65 to 80 have been disappointed and feel bitter because their children are unable to get higher education and are likely to join thousands of unemployed people, said Mahmoud Al Kayed. The writer, who is chairman of the board of directors of the Jordan Press Foundation, said that it is unreasonable to see thousands of bright students, most of whom are unable to pursue higher education in private colleges or abroad, stranded and left helpless. Acceptance of a limited number of students in the state-run universities is unreasonable and rejection of an application by students with 97 per cent average grades to study medicine is ridiculous, continued the writer. He said that Jordanians were shocked to see successful students rejected and unable to get access to higher education at a time when students with lower grades in most countries can enrol at their countries' colleges without any restrictions. The writer said that the Council of Higher Education should reconsider its decision and should amend the rules allowing for the expansion of the base of acceptance in universities which can accommodate much higher number of students.

TAHER AL Adwan, a writer in Al Dustour, expressed fear that Iraqi-Jordanian relations have been harmed in the aftermath of the defection to the Kingdom by senior Iraqi officers. The writer said that the relations between the two countries might witness deterioration rather than improvement if the sanction on Iraq are lifted as a result of the recent developments. The writer said that in view of the numerous Jordanian interests in Iraq, the Kingdom should try to improve relations with Baghdad rather than damage them, adding that a good portion of Jordan's exports go to Iraqi markets and thousands of Jordanians are studying in Iraqi universities. He said that the continuation of the sanctions is bound to further fragment the nation and could by no means help bring democracy and respect of human rights to the Iraqi people. The writer said that the lifting of the sanctions is the only way to pave the ground for democracy and political pluralism in Iraq.

## Human Rights File

# Japan too deserves an apology

ON THE occasion of the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, there was a chorus of voices calling on Japan to offer its apologies for its war record, especially with regard to prisoners of war. Indeed, the Japanese Prime Minister, Tomiichi Murayama, did express his country's apologies for Japanese conduct of the war and the way it treated prisoners of war. So far so good. What is utterly incomprehensible, though, is the silence of the same voices over the apology due to Japan over the dropping of two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and their total annihilation.

Under the Geneva Convention of 1949 and its two additional protocols, the development of mass destruction weapons constitutes war crimes and crimes against humanity. This is the construction of these international treaties that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the greater majority of the community of nations have repeatedly and constantly upheld over the years. Mass killing of people, especially innocent civilians, or their incineration by atomic energy is no different from other mass murder of civilians. Hundreds of thousands of Japanese people were literally put to the torch of a thermonuclear device in the most deliberate manner. In the final analysis, what happened in the two bombed Japanese cities was a holocaust of a kind.

Japan, it seems to me, deserves not only an apology but also reparation and compensation. There were 70,000 Japanese people who met instant death in Hiroshima and some 130,000 who died later from radiation. The immediate death toll in Nagasaki was well over 70,000 when an implosion type was tested for comparison with the trigger type bomb that was dropped in Hiroshima.

What adds insult to injury is the proven fact that the use of mass destruction weapons against Japan was never necessary in the first place to end the war with it. U.S.

military strategists at the War Department had established that Japan would have surrendered before Nov. 1, 1945, even if the two bombs were not used at all. This is particularly so with regard to Nagasaki, which was bombed three days after Hiroshima was hit. If there was a point to make about the devastating effect of nuclear weapons, it was already made when Lt. Col. Paul Tibbets, the pilot of the Enola Gay B-29, dropped on Hiroshima the first atomic bomb.

Suffice it to recall that General Dwight Eisenhower, who was the supreme commander of the U.S. forces at the time and elected U.S. President in 1952. On the strength of his popularity, fought vehemently against the resort to atomic arsenals against civilians. Many high officials in Washington, who became privy to the decision to use atomic weapons against Japanese cities, also expressed their shock at the intention to use them. Historical facts point to Gen. Leslie R. Groves, the man who was in charge of the Manhattan Project that created the first ever used nuclear weapons, as the cold-blooded American military strategist who could not wait to test his "toy," after spending \$2 billion on it. Gen. Groves was so callous about deployment of his experiment that he confided to his closest aides that dying by an atomic bomb "was a very pleasant way to die!" What helped tip the balance in the mind of President Truman was his new Secretary of State, Jimmy Byrnes, who proved to be just as determined as Gen. Groves to deploy newly assembled nuclear weapons to drive a point not only to Japan but also to the Soviet Union.

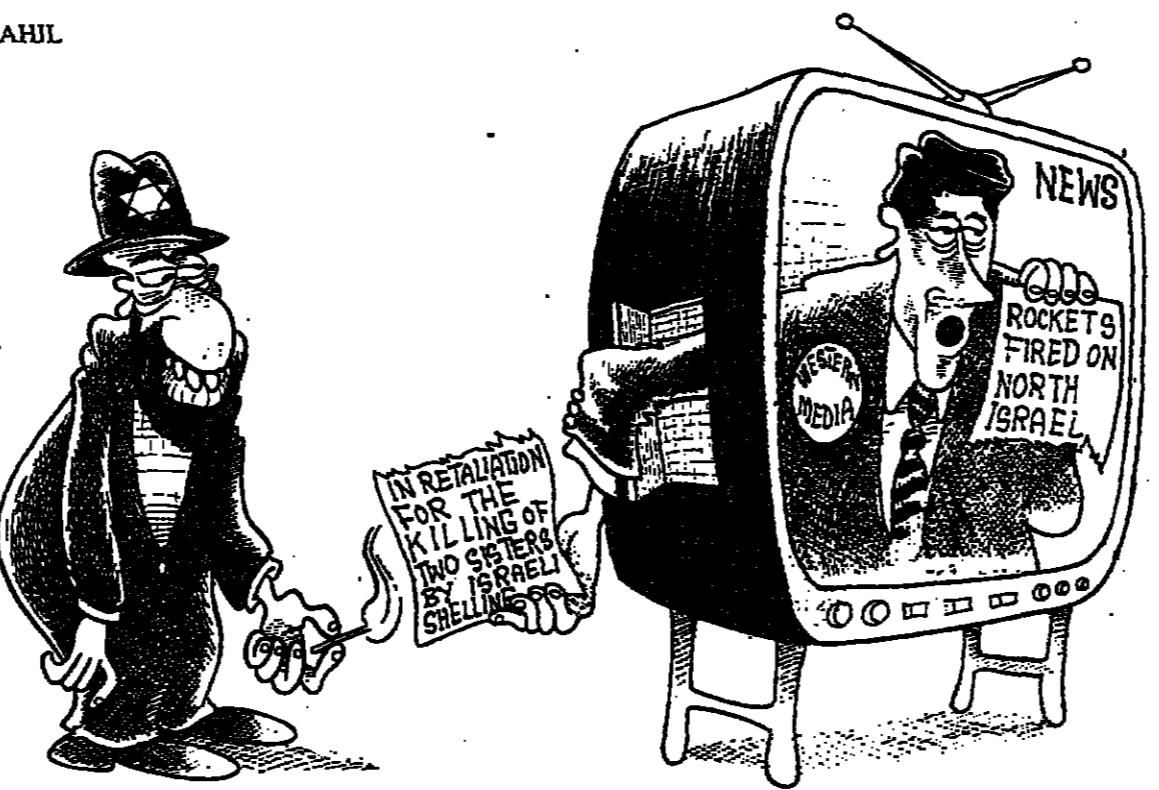
On the other side of the pendulum, there were many key cabinet members who pleaded for sanity and morality. On the top of this list was the Secretary of War, Henry L. Stimson, and his assistant, John McCloy. The other cabinet members were kept in the dark. In retrospect, it was a minority view that supported the decision to drop the

bombs on Japan. The greater majority of Americans were devastated when they heard about the total destruction of two major Japanese metropolises in cold blood. As a matter of fact, the whole of the U.S. was enraged by the news since mass killing of people runs counter to its traditions and norms. Many U.S. scientists pleaded with the late U.S. president Harry Truman to forego using Japanese people as guinea pigs and suggested in vain to drop one bomb on an unpopulated area to demonstrate its unprecedented destructive power not only to Japan, which was on the brink of surrendering anyway, but also to the Soviet Union, which was slowly but surely emerging as a prime adversary to the U.S.

Is it fair then to put the blame on the entire U.S. nation for the decision to masskill Japanese people that was taken by less than half a dozen of U.S. officials? President Truman was certainly personally responsible and so were his secretary of state and the few generals and scientists who were the prime movers to test the reliability of atomic weapons. How can Japan and the international community hold these few people accountable and divorce their actions from the normative U.S. policy against mass murder even during wars. Is it possible legally and politically to distinguish the Truman administration from the mainstream U.S. on this issue.

Even within the Truman administration, it was only the few who supported the decision to drop the bombs on Japan who could be viewed as directly responsible under international law. Who should then apologise to Tokyo for the wanton decision to use nuclear weapons on civilian targets? And who should compensate the families of the victims who perished and the victims who continued to suffer from the effects of radiation? Before we go on insisting on Tokyo to apologise for its war record, we must answer these additional questions and address their implications.

M. KAHL



## SPD squabbles keep German summer politics simmering

By Kevin Liffey  
Reuter

BONN — To most of Germany's political parties, the dog days of July and August are the "summerloch" the "summer hole" when nothing happens. But to the opposition Social Democrats (SPD), this is definitely the silly season.

With heavyweight politi-

cal issues hard to come by

and Chancellor Helmut

Kohl's Conservatives all on

holiday, the SPD has once

again seized the opportu-

nity to do its time-honoured

internal feuding in public.

Party leader Rudolf

Scharping and his arch-rival

Gerhard Schroeder have

been squabbling so bitterly

one state premier, Heide

Simons — in keeping with

the season — accused them

of "behaving like little boys

playing in the sandpit."

"Sooner or later they will

hit each other over the head

with their buckets," she

told Stern magazine. "They

both seem to have heat

stroke."

Mr. Schroeder, the pre-

minister of Lower Saxony

state, lost to Mr. Scharping

in a party leadership elec-

tion in 1993.

But since Mr. Scharping's

defeat by Kohl in the Octo-

ber 1994 general election,

Mr. Schroeder has wasted

no opportunity to remind

the party of his ambitions.

In July he chose to put his

party line on the unlikely

issue of child benefit, for-

cing Mr. Scharping into an

embarrassing climb-down

on one of his flagship poli-

cies just before a par-

liamentary vote.

"What's wrong with being ambitious? People only accuse me of that because they're ambitious themselves," Mr. Schroeder said.

"Of course I stood against Scharping for the leadership in 1993 because I believed and still believe I can do it."

Unable to resist a quip, he also told an interviewer: "If I become the way Scharping wants, my wife will get a divorce."

Mr. Schroeder knows that although the party has been slipping in opinion polls, it is not ready to dump its chairman — even if the daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung said Mr. Scharping's fellow leaders were "gritting their teeth harder and harder."

But when Mr. Schroeder piously says he will not stand against the leader he is careful to add "...at this year's congress."

The next conference is scheduled for November in Mannheim, and is due to reelect Mr. Scharping as chairman.

With Mr. Schroeder bidding his time, Mr. Scharping said he would take the vote to mean the party wants him to stand for chancellor — even though the next general election is still three years away.

"Anyone who thinks he can do a better job should say so now," said Mr. Scharping, who avoids mentioning his rival by name.

"If anyone wants a membership poll about the chancellor candidate, let him say so. It'll be a quick and painless job."

The result has been to

whip up the internal debate further — and revive an old joke which says Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats provide the chancellor, and the SPD the "chancellery candidate."

Spice has been added to the debate by an opinion poll which suggested that the publicity-hungry and telegenic Mr. Schroeder would narrowly beat Mr. Kohl in a general election, but that Mr. Scharping, stiff and uncharismatic, would lose heavily.

Commentators have looked back at great political rivalries of the past — between Conservative Kohl and larger-than-life Bavarian premier Franz-Josef Strauss or the Social Democrats Helmut Schmidt and chancellor of dente, Willy Brandt — and concluded that this is not one of them.

"Many of the SPD's traditional catchwords like 'solidarity' have become threadbare because the old class structures don't exist any more. I'm not convinced the SPD has really tried to analyse itself and overhaul its concepts."

Commentators say Mr. Scharping, who has already made up in doggedness what he lacks in charisma, will probably get another year or two of grace within the party.

And at least one news-

paper leader writer noted that even great political rivalries have petty beginnings.

In the late 1970s, articles about the opposition focused on an irreverent, crowd-pleasing 'doer', a state premier named Strauss who had no compunction about slamming his own rather staid and uninspiring party leader as "totally incompetent".

But it was the party leader who, with his own brand of doggedness, finally won out. His name was Helmut Kohl.

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# Features

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 1995 7

## 4 Jordanian siblings undergo sex-change surgery in Nablus

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP)** — The last of four siblings born with a rare defect that left them appearing female but genetically male underwent surgery Sunday to become a boy.

"I had six granddaughters and two grandsons, and now I have six grandsons and two granddaughters. I thank God and the doctor," their grandmother, Fatima Netasha, told the Israeli newspaper Yediot Achronot.

The youths, ages 10, 11, 12, and 17, live in Amman. Their family brought them to the West Bank town of Nablus for the operation because it was cheaper.

The four were raised as girls. The family first discovered the disorder when the oldest, 17-year-old Mohammad, went through puberty. Mohammad's voice broke, and he began to develop facial hair and a male physique.

Mohammad was diagnosed as a genetic male, but with male genitalia that had never descended from the pubic cavity.

His three younger siblings were recently diagnosed with the same genetic defect, which was caused by low testosterone levels and resulted in a female appearance throughout childhood.

Dr. Yousef Al Masri of the Al Itihad hospital in Nablus

operated on Mohammad in 1992, allowing the genitalia to descend. Another operation rearranged his urinary tract, and hormone treatment completed the process.

Dr. Masri operated Sunday on the youngest child, 10-year-old Ayat — now called Mohammad. The other two siblings, 11-year-old Dana — now Madi — and 12-year-old Hiba — now Madi — underwent surgery last week.

Afterwards, the youngsters celebrated by cutting their long hair short, removing their jewellery and donning boys' pyjamas.

Ariel Ressler, an endocrinologist at Jerusalem's Hadassah hospital who has studied the phenomenon in Gaza's Jabalya refugee camp where it is widespread, said the value placed by Arab society on having boys is an enticement for the families to undertake the operation.

Mr. Ressler said the condition is common among Palestinians in Jabalya as a result of intermarriage. One in 150 males in the camp are born with the defect, he said.

"My patients are happy because they enjoyed being transformed into males," Dr. Masri, who has performed the operation on seven other patients as well, told Associated Press Television Sunday.

## PLO, Israel sign accord

(Continued from page 1)

over to Palestinian control until the interim agreement is reached.

Much of the accord concerns the minutiae of government. For example, it specifies that Palestinian butane gas cylinders must be a different colour than Israeli ones.

A relatively small audience, including the ambassadors of Russia, the United States, Norway, Israel, as well as a Palestinian representative, attended the ceremony.

"Intensive negotiations are going on in Eilat to finish a full second-stage agreement which we hope we will sign soon to put an end to the tragedies and bloodshed this region has seen," Mr. Tarifi said.

Talks resumed in Eilat on Sunday as the two sides tried to eliminate the remaining barriers to a full accord on extending self-rule.

On Thursday Israel recognized Palestinian rights to water sources in the West Bank, while the PLO agreed to let discussion of the issue be postponed until talks on the final status of the territories, to begin next May.

Wednesday's agreement was the second one turning

over day-to-day duties in the West Bank to Palestinians. Almost a year ago an agreement gave them control over education, health, welfare, tourism and taxation.

The original Washington accord envisioned the elections taking place in July 1994, but the talks have been delayed by violence — particularly attacks on Israelis by Palestinians opposed to the peace pact — and by laborious details of negotiation.

Also, the negotiators have repeatedly skirted contentious issues like water sharing and the withdrawal of troops from Hebron, a West Bank town where about 400 Israeli settlers live among the 110,000 Palestinian population.

The interim pact settling these issues was expected to be signed early next month in Washington. But an Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said negotiators were now aiming for finishing in late September and added he was uncertain the signing would be in Washington.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres voiced hopes that a full agreement could be signed in mid-September in Washington. "It will not be Sept. 7 but a few days after," he said in Tel Aviv.

## Jericho remains under siege

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinian autonomy is implemented, more West Bank towns could become "places of refuge and serve as bases of terror."

"This is what we see as the challenge of the Palestinian authority: to prove it is cooperating with us and not evading its duty according to the (autonomy) agreement," he said.

In a radio interview late Sunday, Israeli Justice Minister David Levy opened the way for a lifting of roadblocks that have prevented drivers from entering or leaving Jericho town for the past five days.

By virtue of the accords signed between us, the Palestinian Authority is not obliged to transfer criminals to us from the moment they are judged and sentenced," he said. "That's why we have not presented any formal request."

Mr. Levy, however, insisted that Israel was right to seek all available information on the "terrorist activities" of the two men.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said: "We have examined the legal aspects of this question in cabinet and we have concluded that extradition cannot be requested."

Palestinian Prosecutor General Abu Ziad Al Bishawi said the two militants were found guilty mainly of "harming the security" of the self-rule authority, the Palestinian population and the peace process.

According to the radio, the Israeli authorities suspect the Palestinians of jailing the militants to justify their refusal to hand them over.

"It is getting a failing mark," said Shimon Shetreet, Israel's minister of religious affairs.

Mr. Shetreet said he was concerned that when the message to China is emerging accord to expand

## U.N. ponders nightmare scenario in Sarajevo

By Kurt Schork

Reuters

SARAJEVO — Even as efforts to broker a Bosnian peace deal quicken, U.N. officials are pondering the nightmare scenario of a last-ditch bid by separatist Serbs to end the war with a military strike on the U.N.-held airport, Igman, in the capital, Sarajevo.

U.N. planners say separatist Serbs besieging the city could try to cut the sole government supply route over Mount Igman or assault and occupy the U.N.-held airport, under which a vital Bosnian supply tunnel runs.

Were they to succeed, the Serbs would isolate the capital, bottling up government leaders, 300,000 civilians and thousands of U.N. peacekeepers hostage, using some as human shields to prevent retaliatory NATO air strikes.

U.N. forces are not toothless around Igman or Sarajevo. About 500 British and French members of the U.N. Rapid Reaction Force (RRF) are camped in Mount Igman, west of Sarajevo, backed by artillery, heavy mortars and tanks.

Also on Igman are thousands of Bosnian army troops who could be expected to fiercely oppose any Serb advance on the government's key supply route.

Several hundred French foreign legionnaires hold the airport, separated from Bosnian army and Serb

Bosnian Serb army commander general Ratko Mladić, past master of the bold counter-stroke.

Mr. Mladić has shown his army to be more than a match for government troops and the combined U.N.-NATO forces arrayed to deter attacks on Sarajevo.

U.N. planners say separatist Serbs besieging the city could try to cut the sole government supply route over Mount Igman or Sarajevo. About 500 British and French members of the U.N. Rapid Reaction Force (RRF) are camped in Mount Igman, west of Sarajevo, backed by artillery, heavy mortars and tanks.

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Several hundred French foreign legionnaires hold the airport, separated from Bosnian army and Serb

troops by huge earthen berms but only a few hundred metres of ground.

RRF artillery is within easy range of the airport and NATO fighters on aircraft carriers in the Adriatic are just 30 minutes away.

U.N. officials say both the Igman supply route and the airport are "vital ground" because they represent the only non-Serb controlled access in and out of Sarajevo — essential for both relief supplies and peacekeepers.

The muscle and the mandate are there to oppose any Serb advance but, as always, the question is whether the U.N.-NATO combine has the necessary political will.

The nightmare scenario is a determined Serb attack to seize Sarajevo's airport, with Serb soldiers popping up inside the perimeter from tunnels which U.N. officials suspect are already in place.

Backed by Serb tanks and artillery, these troops might surprise the United Nations and seize substantial numbers of hostages, daring NATO and the RRF to attack — the exact point at which Western resolve has cracked in the past.

Having blown up the government supply tunnel under the airport and blocked the last route in and out of Sarajevo, Mr. Mladić might then feel comfortable talking peace.



The stream of refugees continue (AFP file photo)

## Revegetating degraded land

By John Madeley

"JUST LOOK at this!" Scott Christiansen is standing on a rocky hillside in northern Syria which only two years ago was almost totally degraded.

But now, Drs. Christiansen and Ahmed Osman, pasture specialists with the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), are excited by what they are seeing.

Overgrazing, poor management by farmers and land tenure systems that give them little encouragement to improve their land, have caused the degradation of between 10 and 15 million hectares of hillsides in West Asia (the Middle East) and North Africa. Pasture land for the sheep has been lost, and milk and meat production have suffered, with fewer lambs being weaned.

As the hillside was suffering from a phosphorus deficiency, part of it was also fertilized with small amounts of phosphate fertilizer.

Today the result are clear. The hillside has sprung back into life. Land that was almost useless for grazing has been brought back into production.

"I've never seen the hill looking so good," says Abderrahman, Abu Ziad's

sheep. Three years ago the three brothers agreed to a plan to revegetate 30 hectares of their hill. And it is the results of this that are causing Drs. Christiansen some excitement.

"We worked with them to revegetate this section of their hill with pasture plants that are found in the area, chiefly medics, annual plants from the same family as alfalfa, and clovers," says Drs. Christiansen. "We provided them with the seed and pods of these plants to scatter on the hillside.

Now, Abu Ziad and his brothers are becoming interested in doing the same. One farmer, Abu Hassan, is so convinced about the value of medics that he is planning to start a small nursery to grow the seeds for oversowing on his own land. ICARDA wants him to grow more than he needs himself, so that extra seed will be available for sale to, or barter with, other interested farmers. Up until now ICARDA has provided the seeds.

Other farmers in the neighbourhood are seeing for themselves the success that Abu Ziad and his brothers have had, and are becoming interested in doing the same. One farmer, Abu Hassan, is so convinced about the value of medics that he is planning to start a small nursery to grow the seeds for oversowing on his own land. ICARDA wants him to grow more than he needs himself, so that extra seed will be available for sale to, or barter with, other interested farmers. Up until now ICARDA has provided the seeds.

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medic and clover plants are," say the ICARDA scientists. "They recognise and value them for their qualities, and the contribution they can make to milk production and lamb growth rates. What we need now are mechanisms to increase the supply of seeds, and spread them to their areas with the participation of the farmers."

Meanwhile the other part of Abu Ziad's 80-hectare hill stands in stark contrast — barren land with virtually no vegetation at this time of the year, and almost useless for grazing. This he plans to put right as soon as he can lay his hands on enough seeds.

Drs. Christiansen and Dr. Osman believe that this seeding of degraded areas has an important part to play in stopping the process of land degradation in the West Asia and North Africa region. And it can be done, they emphasise, by using local seeds.

"All the technology we are using is right here — it is locally available plant genetic resources," says Drs. Osman, "all the farmers have to do is not graze their sheep on the plants during the months of April and May when the flowering occurs, and when the plants are setting new seed. After that, the sheep can graze the plants. This management allows a stock of seeds to build up in the soil

sive air assault against Iraq in response to the 39 Scud missiles fired at Tel Aviv and other Israeli cities during the war.

Iraq was under heavy pressure from the United States not to retaliate against the Iraqis for fear of splitting the allied coalition, which included Arab states hostile to the Jewish state.

Officials said they expected the Crown Prince and Gen. Hassan to review the progress reached so far in coordination of presentations as well as a joint strategy at the summit aimed at attracting investments and foreign companies to the region in

## Crown Prince, Peres meet today

(Continued from page 1)

Jordan and Israel are also seeking to coordinate their presentations at the MENA summit to be held in October and this is also an issue expected to be tackled at today's meeting.

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"As far as I know, all wives share the same inheritance of the one-eighth (percentage)."

The House is expected to continue discussions of the income tax draft law on Wednesday. The proposed legislation will introduce sweeping reductions in income tax levied on individuals, banks and companies. It is part of a trade package which includes an amendment to the Sales Tax Law as well as the Encouragement of Investment Law. All draft laws are expected to be finalised during this extraordinary session ahead of the Middle East and North Africa economic summit

## Arab Gulf states urged to forge export strategy

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states should map out a joint strategy to increase their non-oil exports as part of their attempts to reduce dependence on volatile crude earnings, according to a regional study.

The strategy should include setting up export information centres in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), staging joint exhibitions abroad, and creating an export promotion council grouping the six members, said a GCC study.

"The information centres will provide statistics and other data on foreign markets, demand and supply, and marketing opportunities," said the study, published in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) daily Al Bayan Sunday.

"Such centres should be linked to the World Trade Organisation and international export information centres in Singapore, Taiwan

and Hong Kong," added the study, issued by the federation of GCC chambers of commerce and industry.

The GCC's non-oil exports stood at around \$13 billion in 1994, including nearly \$5.7 billion worth of exports among the six members.

The figure is nearly double that in 1985 as GCC states pressed ahead with industrialisation campaigns to diversify their oil-reliant economies.

The six members — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the UAE — have pumped more than \$40 billion into nearly 5,000 industrial projects but most of their products have remained confined to light industries as they lack technology for heavy industry.

"Gulf states should set up a higher council to coordinate their industries and develop exports," the study said. "They should also step up exhibitions abroad and upgrade their products to boost their competitiveness."

## Russian banks face new test after credit crunch

MOSCOW (R) — Russian banks face a new test this week after the central bank injected cash into the economy to ease a severe credit crunch.

The central bank and government said their actions would be enough to calm the crisis, which sparked fears of bank closures or mergers, but Russian markets still slow to react to events, reserved judgment.

Some economists and officials said such problems were common in economies in transition and were partly a result of Russia's success in achieving a measure of stabilisation.

The non-payments crisis arose after some banks stopped lending, fearing they would not get their money back. On Thursday, overnight interest rates soared to 1,000 per cent from Wednesday's 500 per cent. The interbank credit market froze.

The central bank made \$300 billion roubles (\$68 million) of short-term credits available to the banks. It also bought treasury bills worth one trillion roubles (\$227 million) on Friday to pump extra

cash into the market. Despite this, the credit market remained comatose but acting central bank head Tatyana Paramonova told a news conference the situation should be back to normal by Monday or Tuesday.

However, the respected Sevodnya daily said Saturday that doubts remained about whether the action would be enough to revive the market and that further cash injections could mean higher inflation and a weakening of financial policy.

Russia has cut monthly inflation from 17.8 per cent in January to 5.4 per cent in July and expects further falls.

First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Chubais said Friday the government would set up a working group to look at the restructuring of the banking sector.

Moscow agreed strict targets for credit issue with the International Monetary Fund as a condition for the release of a \$6.4 billion standby loan earlier this year.

"We have not once, not for one month, not for one day, broken the terms of the standby... for us these are

principal limits from which we will not depart," Mr. Chubais said.

The *Kommersant* daily financial newspaper commented Saturday that the government could not have ignored the crisis with parliamentary elections due in December.

"To allow the collapse of fairly large banks on the eve of elections would have meant practically giving away most votes to the left-wing opposition," it said.

Some bankers said the crisis, however it was resolved, heralded a shake-out of the system. "The time is ripe for a restructuring of the banking system," one told Sevodnya.

Russia has almost 3,000 banks, many have survived because of big returns on the release of a \$6.4 billion

standby loan earlier this year.

With inflation falling, trouble instruments are less profitable while high interest rates are making it hard for companies to repay loans.

## Israeli cabinet approves \$52.4b budget

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's cabinet approved a 1996 budget that includes a planned transfer of a billion shekels (\$330 million), to Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority, triple last year's figure, officials said.

The 160 billion-shekel (\$52.4 billion) budget has been criticised for doing too little to reduce Israel's relatively high taxation and government expenditure.

But Finance Minister Avraham Shohat maintained that it would enable the Jewish state to continue a five-year boom that has seen its economy grow by about a

cent of the gross domestic product compared with over 35 per cent of the oil sector.

Apart from chemicals, GCC industries include cement and other building materials, paper, home appliances, farm products, clothes and textiles.

The six members, which

control around 45 per cent of the world's oil reserves, have been locked in negotiations with Japan, the European Union and the United States to acquire industrial technology in return for long-term crude supplies. But industrial powers are reluctant to set up major projects as the grounds the region is relatively small and investment laws are restrictive.

The figure is nearly double that in 1985 as GCC states pressed ahead with industrialisation campaigns to diversify their oil-reliant economies.

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## U.S. OPEN PREVIEW

## Seles seeks 3rd U.S. Open in comeback; Agassi favourite

NEW YORK (AP) — Monica Seles won the last two U.S. Opens she played before she was stabbed in 1993, and the way she looks now she's the favourite to win it a third time when play begins on Monday.

Rarer is the athlete who returns from a long layoff as good as ever straight from the start. Rarer still is one who comes back better, the way the two-inch (5.1 cms) taller Seles appears to be with a bigger serve and more confident volleys.

Seles began her comeback by winning the Canadian Open last week as easily as she ever won any tournament. The U.S. Open, a two-week grind, will be tougher. But barring a flareup of the tendinitis in her left knee, or any new injury, she has the talent and the draw to win her ninth Grand Slam title.

"The first time back, it's unrealistic," Seles said as she sought to take the pressure off herself. "It doesn't matter. If I play well, that's great."

It'll be a boon for tennis just to have her back in the Open, playing in it for the first time as an American citizen.

Two-time men's champion Pete Sampras, seeded second behind defending champion Andre Agassi, was impressed by Seles' cruise in the Canadian.

"It certainly wouldn't happen in the men's game, that's for sure," Sampras said. "But to come back after 2½ years and really dominate... I saw some of the scores up there and she seemed like she never really left the tour. That is pretty unbelievable, to be that match-tough so quickly, first tournament back. I mean, she is killing everyone. That is an indication of how much better she is than the rest of the girls."

A year ago, Sampras got knocked out of the open in the fourth round by Jaime Yzaga after a one-month layoff due to injury. Sampras worked out hard on a bike during his absence, practised as much as he could, but still wasn't "match-tough." None of the men, Sampras said,



Monica Seles

could come back from a much longer layoff and win right away as Seles did.

"I mean, you are out for two years, you come back, and to win a final one and love, that is pretty much impossible," Sampras said. "If I was out for two years and came back, who is to say if I could get through the qualifier? It is a whole different game."

Sampras cited the comeback of Mats Wilander, winner of three Grand Slam titles

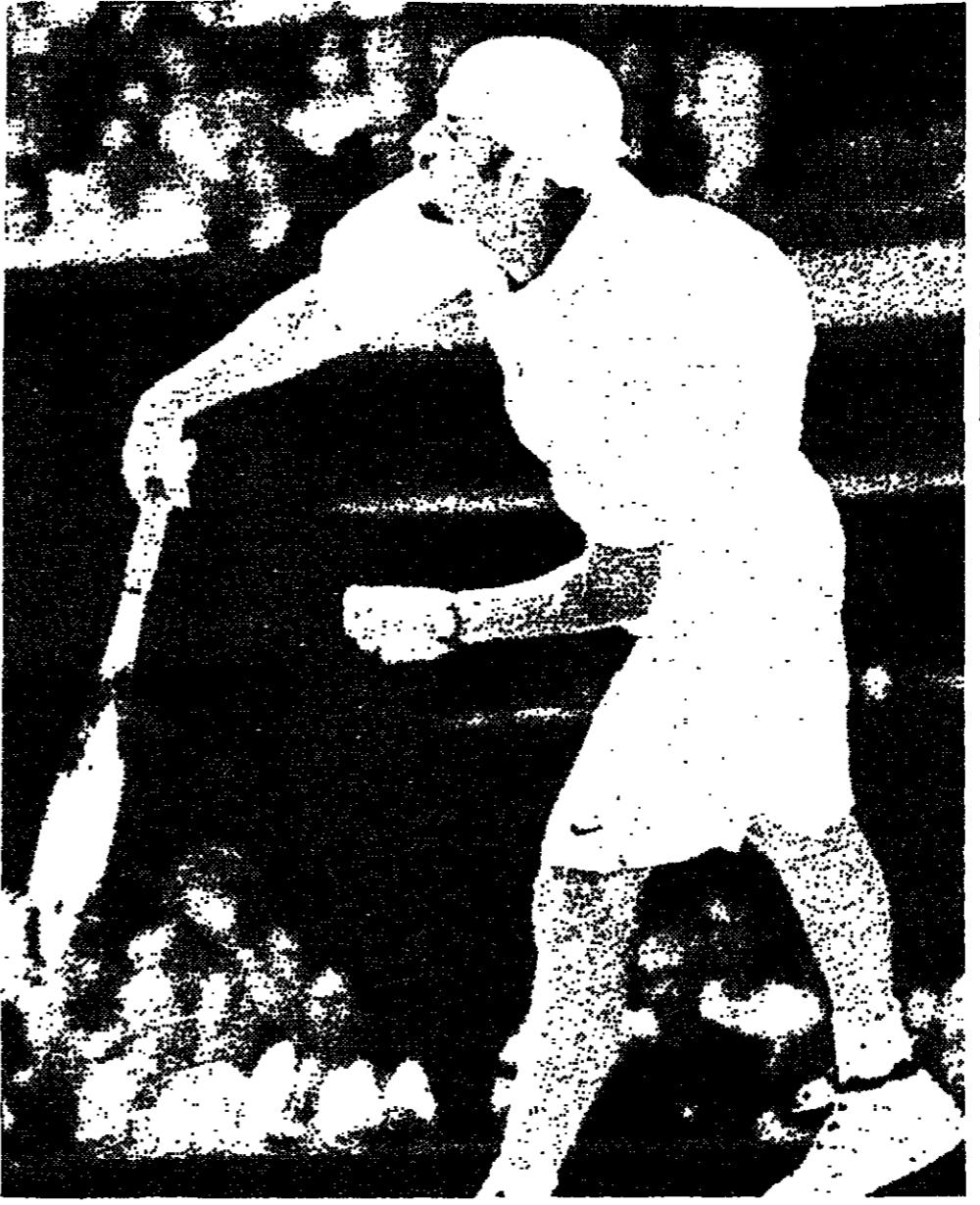
in 1988, who took off most of three years before playing his first full season again last year.

"It wasn't like he was contending for major titles," Sampras said. "The top four, five girls are so much better than the rest, it's a joke. I mean, really, those girls are winning their matches two and love, one and one. That is unheard of in the men's game. She and Graf and the rest of the top five or 10 are so much better than someone

ranked 20. It seems like those girls really don't start playing their best tennis until the quarterfinals or semifinals, because the first four matches are kind of like a consolation, kind of like a qualifying for them. That is the way it is in the ladies game."

The difference in ability between the top five players

Graf, Seles, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, Conchita Martinez, Jana Novotna and Mary Pierce — and the rest of the field is wide.



World No. 1 Andre Agassi

And for this tournament, Graf is a questionable contender with her mind on the tax charges against her father in Germany, her back suspect and her confidence perhaps down. Graf also has a very tough draw, starting with Amanda Coetzer, who beat her in the first round in Canada. If Graf gets to the quarters, she could face Pierce, the Australian Open champion, with the winner likely to play Sanchez Vicario in the semis. Seles, seeded

second, has a much easier draw to the final.

But for all the depth of the men's draw — any of the top 100 players could beat the highest-ranked men on a given day — even Sampras acknowledges that, just like the women, there are only five or six who truly would be considered contenders. And that's being generous.

Agassi and Sampras have so thoroughly dominated the men's game that it would be a surprise if they didn't meet in

the final. The third-seeded player, French Open champion Thomas Muster, prepared for this hardcourt event by playing on clay in Croatia and would be lucky to get past the quarters.

Boris Becker, the No. 4 seed and 1989 champion, reached the Wimbledon final but hasn't gone beyond the fourth round at the U.S. Open since 1990. This surface doesn't suit him nearly as well as grass.

Kafelnikov raised his record for the year to 58-20 and will be the seventh seed at the U.S. Open.

Siemerink, who beat Boris Becker three weeks ago in Cincinnati, won his lone career singles title in Singapore in 1991, but is in his second final. In four weeks, last month he reached the final on clay at Amsterdam.

Siemerink's serve-and-volley attack was too much for Furian, taking just 70 minutes to pick up his third consecutive straight-set victory.

Siemerink also upset second seeded Wayne Ferreira in the first round in three sets.

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one declarer captured East's ten of spades with a lead.

A lead to the king provided the entry to the nine of clubs to West's king. From West's point of view, it looked as if partner held both the jack and queen of spades, and that a spade continuation was all that was required to defeat the contract. Unfortunately, declarer won the low spade return with the queen and lost all of the rest of the tricks save one.

Should West read the situation?

We don't know. Perhaps South's

bidger's jump to three no trump, unlikely

with only one spade stopper, was a

clue, but we think we would have

defended in the same way.

The England captain has been beset by injuries in the pre-season build-up and is struggling to come to terms again with the fierce pace of the English game.

His goal at Everton last

Wednesday was a reminder of what he can do, but he

followed a poor opening-day performance against Middlesbrough with another in Arsenal's goalless draw at Coventry on Saturday.

And he admitted: "I know

I've got more work to do yet

before I'm at full steam.

"The game is very fast

here, much different to the

pace in Italy and that is not a

surprise to me, but the expec-

tation is so high, probably

because of all the foreign

stars coming here, the big

money in the transfer market

and the prospect of the Euro-

pean Championship finals

here at the end of the season.

"Everybody is flying and

my preparation has been a bit

stop-start, but you will have to expect a few differences in me. I think I have become more tactically aware and although I'll always want to go forward on the end of things and take a risk, I've learned not to go bombing in when the odds are 50-50 against me.

"When I've had more time on the training ground with the lads, I'll be better. We are all getting better as we go along and the important thing is that we are still unbeaten

"When the players have got more used to the touches of Dennis Bergkamp and learn more about the way Bruce Rioch wants us to play you will see things happen."

"I spoke to Gary Lineker and he warned me, from his experience when he came back from Spain, that it probably takes six or seven games before your reactions become attuned again to the pace here. And now it is even faster."

The Gunners defence was also fiercely resilient in a match of five bookings and new boss Rioch said: "I've inherited that quality at the club. This was a battling performance and we had to show a lot of grit and determination."

"Our passing, particularly the speed of it, has to get a lot better and it will, but after two clean sheets in three games I'm reasonably happy."

Barnes back to his best

John Barnes is dazzling again, with a newfound lease of life and no lack of inventive spirit, as Liverpool's 3-1 mugging of Spurs showed on Saturday.

The much-criticised Eng-

land player scored a sensational 'hat-trick' at Spurs and then insisted: "I'll sweat blood to be a winner this

season."

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# Sports

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 1995 11

## Basketball, swimming officials probe unsportsmanlike incidents

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Basketball and swimming events in the country have been temporarily suspended pending investigations by the respective federations following unsportsmanlike events which marred competition during the last week.

Following the suspension of the Ahli's Under-22 final round basketball match on Aug. 20 when fans and players of both teams broke into a riot at Al Ahli court, swimming competitions were put on hold Sunday after referees announced they were pulling out until the Jordan Swimming Federation (JSF) takes the decision to bar Al Orthodox's swimmer Osama Al Hafiz who had attacked a referee earlier in the week.

So far, the JSF has not taken any decision regarding the swimmer whose club insisted that he continue his participation in the week-long event. Al Orthodox were in the overall lead with 1637 points in the five-club event which has witnessed the toughest competition in years with 10 national records broken.

As for the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF), it meets today (Monday) to reschedule U-22 and women's championship matches which were postponed when Al Orthodox announced they were pulling out of all JBF activities.

Al Orthodox Club's representative at the JBF's fact-finding committee had failed to show up for a meeting Saturday.

JBF Chairman Awwad Haddad said the federation would take the appropriate measures against the players who instigated the fight in its regular meeting Monday and said he hoped another meeting of the committee will have addressed the problems Tuesday.

Al Orthodox's player Mustafa Al Ghoul had attacked the referee during the match. Moments later his teammate Ihab Mabs kicked Al Ahli's Faisal Nsour. Things went out of control from that moment on and players from both teams got entangled in a fight which JBF officials, referees and Ahli club officials tried to stop. Fans from both sides left the stands and descended on Al Ahli's court which, for two minutes, became a battlefield, helped by total absence of policemen.

The match was halted when Al Ahli were leading 66-57, with 10'45" remaining in the second half. Orthodox's head coach Murad Burak told the referees he was pulling his team out because policemen failed to show up and two of his players had to be taken to hospital.

Al Ahli, needed to win by any score to secure the title, while Al Orthodox needed a 24-point win to keep their title hopes alive.

## Maleeva, Rubin in finals

MAHWAH, New Jersey (R) — Bulgaria's Magdalena Maleeva, after singles title in 1991, but is final. In last month's final on clay court was too much taking just "nick up his straight serve" k also upset Wayne first round.

Maleeva, seeded third, sparked with her service return in an abbreviated 74-minute duel that ended 4-6, 4-3 with Novotna limping off the court for further treatment to the second toe of her right foot.

The 20-year-old Maleeva is seeking to duplicate the title earned here by her sister, Manuela Maleeva-Fagniere, in 1987.

"I'm disappointed because I thought I could win the tournament," said the second-seeded Novotna.

"I was worried that I could make it worse by continuing. It was painful and I couldn't run."

Novotna said the injury first flared during a doubles match at Wimbledon this summer.

"I may have to ask for a one-day postponement if I am scheduled for a match Monday," said Novotna, who is seeded fifth at the U.S. Open. "Grand Slams are the most important thing and I want to be ready to play there."

Maleeva played quite well, constantly taking the offence against Novotna.

"I was surprised at how

good she was considering that she has not played since the French Open," Novotna said. "Her returns will make her dangerous at the U.S. Open."

Maleeva rapped a blistering forehand service return winner to score a service break and pull even at 4-4 in the opening set. But Novotna broke back in the ninth game on an angled backhand service return and then held in the 10th.

In the second set, Maleeva moved to a 3-1 lead when Novotna double faulted in the fourth game.

The Bulgarian player held to 4-1 on an ace and a backhand pass after two deuces. It was at this stage that Novotna signalled for a trainer and had her toe taped for support.

Novotna held in the sixth game and broke in the seventh to get back on serve before calling it a day.

VIENNA (R) — Denis Pankratov, butterfly swimmer supreme, led a golden Russian sweep at the European Championships on Saturday.

Pankratov and fellow world champions Alexander Popov and Vladimir Selkov each completed individual title doubles as Russia swept all three men's golds on the penultimate day of the championships.

Franziska Van Almsick scooped her fifth gold of the week with a superb anchor leg in the women's 4x100 metres medley relay and fellow German Julia Jung, just 15, won the 800 metres freestyle.

Michelle Smith, silver

medallist in Tuesday's 400

individual medley, brought Ireland their first gold in the 69-year history of the European Championships with a powerful performance in the women's 200 individual medley.

But all eyes were on Pankratov for the men's 200

metres butterfly final following his obliteration of the nine-year-old 100 butterfly world record on Wednesday.

The weather, though, had cooled considerably with a heavy downpour of rain in the early afternoon after the hot sunshine of the morning heats, making conditions less hospitable at the open-air Stadionbad pool.

Pankratov, masterly exponent of the newly developing 'submarine' technique in the opening phase of the race, took the first 200 metres under water and surfaced long after his rivals. He was well clear and inside his own world record schedule at the first turn in the 50-metre pool.

The Russian world champion, leaving his rivals for dead, swam home nearly three seconds ahead of the rest in one minute 56.34 seconds, 1.12 seconds outside the world mark he set in Canet, France, in June.

"It was unfortunately a bit

too cold for a world record today," Pankratov said.

"Pankratov doesn't give you a chance on the first length. You can't hold him," Poland's Konrad Galka, silver medallist in 1:59.50, said.

"We're all equal for 35 metres and then I don't know what happens."

Selkov matched Pankratov and Popov by adding the 100 backstroke crown to the 200 title he retained on Thursday, a twin task made easier by the absence of Olympic 200 and world 100 champion Martin Lopez-Zubero of Spain who was sidelined by a back injury.

Victor, in Thursday's 100 freestyle, Popov had no trouble completing the 50 and 100 double he also achieved at the 1992 Olympics, the 1993 Europeans and 1994 worlds.

He won in a championship record 22.25 seconds, way ahead of Christophe Kalfayan of France (22.63) — silver medallist for the second time — and Torsten Span-

neberg of Germany (22.66).

"More and more people are able to stay with me till 35 metres and then they decide to leave me go," Popov said with a smile.

"

"We're all equal for 35 metres and then I don't know what happens."

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Victor, like Pankratov and Popov, was in a class of his own and forged away on the second length of the 100 to win in 55.48 seconds from Germany's Jirka Letzin (56.24) and Belgium's Stefaan Maene (56.32).

With one day to go, the Russians lead the title table with 16 golds to 12 for Germany.

Jung just held off fast finishing defending champion Jana Henke in a German one-two in the women's 800 freestyle, a welcome revival for Jung after she had finished a disappointing sixth behind Van Almsick in Thursday's 400 event.

"I felt lousy after the 400. I didn't want to swim anymore. I wanted to be home," she said. "I was afraid the same thing would happen in the 800 but my team mates built me up and it worked out well."

Van Almsick had to pull back a big deficit in the medley relay after Hungary had taken charge with a magnificent 1:00.93 opening backstroke leg from Olympic champion Krisztina Egerszegi and maintained the advantage in the breaststroke and butterfly.

But it was easily within Van Almsick's powers and her superb 54.10-second freestyle split gave the Germans victory by more than two seconds.

## European Swimming Championships

## Russian trio in command; Franzi takes 5th gold

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## CHEERS : A JORDANIAN, NOT AN AMERICAN SUCCESS STORY.

The Jordan Times Features Editor ran an article entitled "Jordanians bite into junk food culture" Saturday, 26 August 1995. The Editor had a recorded audience with Mr. Raja F. Halazon - the Chairman of TURINO Flatotel and Gastronomy Centres. It is regrettable, that references to CHEERS, in certain instances, in the article are incorrect, and could be considered harmful to the CHEERS at TURINO image. The fact is that Mr. Halazon informed the Editor that "We are basically in contradiction with the culture of American fast food products - you know the US offers a B.A. degree in Hamburgerology, but that has nothing to do with what we offer at CHEERS". We offer highest quality chopped/minced pure beef burgers with no 'junk' additives. CHEERS has no relationship whatsoever to any American chain-the name happens to be that of a T.V. Series, that is completely unheard of in this part of the world. Our pizzas claim more taste than any American pizza, because of higher ratio / amount of quality mozzarella cheese used per ounce. The setting of CHEERS is for exclusive, yet affordable, fine cafe'-dining definitely not a fast food place. Admittedly, CHEERS at TURINO adopts a European influence, but with an Arab accent. This is the culture of TURINO: the Arab- Mediterranean culture of hospitality, gastronomy, and fine entertainment. The cultural effects are our own creation and bear no relationship to any other place anywhere in the world. We can proudly mention that we were asked to franchise the product for some investors residing outside of Jordan, who considered CHEERS as a new and attractive concept. The unintentional error of the Editor is the mention of cigarette advertising. Although two of our posters show celebrities smoking but nowhere do we advertise any product; and definitely not cigarettes- NEVER!! On the contrary, our posters herald pitch lines like this: "Expect to Win" "Eat and Tell" "We met at CHEERS" "Quality only happens when you care to try your best" "CHEERS at TURINO is a simple small Jordanian success. No junk food - No junk telling - no junk food all!! To the Readers: As for the American social intrusion - check what you wear, your computer, the TV news signal, the graphic design software, and then take a bubble-bubble 'sedative' to help you ponder about the conflict of cultures !!!



Attila Czege of Hungary swims the backstroke on his way to clock the best time in men's 200m final at the European Swimming Championships Sunday (AFP photo)

# U.S. renews Balkan initiative amid clouds

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — The United States relaunched its Balkan peace initiative on Sunday but diplomacy was overshadowed by threats of a military offensive by Croatia and a U.N. gamble to protect a Muslim enclave with air power alone.

A reconstituted U.S. team headed for Europe to press the peace plan, but officials admitted they faced a daunting task with only a slim chance of success.

"I do want to say here and now to all the parties that we think the coming week is potentially decisive," Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke, who heads the delegation, said in a television interview.

Mr. Holbrooke and fellow negotiators headed for Paris later in the day for talks Monday and Tuesday with the French government and the other members of the five-nation contact group of international mediators: Britain, Germany and Russia.

The U.S. delegation was also to meet Monday in Paris with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, then travel to Belgrade for what Mr. Holbrooke described as "key" talks with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic to persuade him to use his influence over Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina to make peace.

"We're not going to make a major concession to get them to the table," Mr. Holbrooke said.

"They are the major obstacle to peace and Belgrade will have to make some very tough decisions in the weeks to come," he added.

The Bosnian Serbs have steadfastly rejected an international peace plan that would grant them 49 per cent of the territory of Bosnia,

with the remaining 51 per cent to remain under the control of the Muslim-Croat alliance headquartered in Sarajevo.

Mr. Holbrooke warned warring Serbs they could face massive North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) reprisals if they fail to accept peace.

"If this peace initiative does not get moving, dramatically moving in the next week or two, the consequences will be very adverse to the Serbian goals," he said.

"One way or another, NATO will be heavily involved," he warned, adding: "This is something that the Serbs would not want."

The U.S. initiative was set back on Aug. 19 when three envoys died in a road accident near the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo. Four new officials were appointed last Wednesday.

The deaths deflated the initiative's initial momentum and the effort to regain the pace was overshadowed by Croatia's renewed threat to win back its last Serb-held rebel enclave on its territory by force if necessary.

President Tudjman said Eastern Slavonia would be retaken within months from separatist Serbs who have held it since 1991. If negotiations failed to win the region, a new military offensive would do it, he said.

"We are faced with the task of liberating eastern Slavonia," Mr. Tudjman said in Zagreb on Saturday. "We will quite certainly do this in the coming months either by peaceful means or by a new (military offensive) storm."

Eastern Slavonia, bordering Serbia, is the last part of Croatia in Serb hands after

**37 killed in week of violence in Algeria**

ALGIERS (AFP) — At least 37 people have been killed in the past week in Algeria as security services crack down on armed fundamentalists who themselves were blamed for an attack on civilians in the west of the country, press reports said Sunday.

The daily Liberte reported that 12 people aged between 20 and 45 were brutally murdered a week ago by suspected Islamic militants near Chlef in western Algeria.

The armed men stopped the 12 people — including an imam and a communal guard — at a roadblock and asked them to get off for an identity check before executing them.

Security services revealed later Sunday they had killed 25 armed fundamentalists over the past week in separate swoops, including four in one operation in a western suburb of Algiers.

Algeria has been hit by a spate of brutal murders of civilians in recent weeks as its three-year civil war, sparked by the banning of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in March 1992, continues to rage unabated.

On Saturday, the Al Watan daily reported that Islamic extremists in eastern Algeria killed the wives of nine local patrolmen by slitting their throats and then decapitating some of them.

Some 371 women have been killed by Islamic fundamentalists since last year and hundreds of others kidnapped, tortured or raped, according to the Algerian security forces.

On Sunday, the Al Watan daily reported that a booby-trapped lorry blew up Saturday afternoon in Boufarik, 25 kilometres south of Algiers, destroying several homes.

Liberte also reported that a home-made bomb was found hidden in railway tracks near Chlef and defused in time before a train passed.

In early August, a bomb exploded under a train travelling between Medea and Ksar Al Boukhar, in the same region, killing seven people.

Liberte and La Tribune reported on Sunday details of a huge army search operation in Kabylie, east of Algiers.

Al Watan also said that 29 people were arrested during Wednesday's army sweep in the Algiers Casbah.

They were charged with

"being on the lookout, protecting the flight of terrorists after each attack and giving them shelter, food and money" as well as "seeking out potential targets." Al Watan said.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israel arrests anti-nuclear protesters

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli police detained 10 anti-nuclear protesters who chained themselves to the French and Chinese embassies in Tel Aviv on Sunday, police said. Witnesses at the French embassy said police used wirecutters on the protesters' chains and took down a three-metre banner the protesters had hung which said: "Stop nuclear tests." Australia and Japan have led condemnation of China's detonation of a nuclear device on Aug. 17 and France's June announcement that it would resume nuclear tests in the South Pacific in September.

### 37 Filipinas return home complaining of abuse

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Twenty-seven Filipinas complaining of abuse quit their jobs as housemaids in Kuwait and returned to the Philippines, a newspaper reported here Sunday. The maids said they ran away from their employers because of over-work, lack of proper food, non-payment of salaries and verbal abuse, according to the Arab Times. They returned home on Saturday. Most of the group wanted to change jobs and stay in the oil-rich emirate but were not allowed to do so under Kuwaiti law, the English-language newspaper said. Around 700 Filipinas have left Kuwait since June of last year.

### Court to rule on 'the Emigrant' this week

CAIRO (AFP) — An Egyptian court delayed until Thursday its verdict on three law suits seeking to restore a ban on the film The Emigrant on the grounds that it is offensive to religion, legal sources said Sunday. The court earlier decided to join the three cases raised by the Muslim sect of Sufis, an Islamist lawyer Mahmoud Abu Faid and a Christian lawyer Hosni Himi Abadir. The president of the Sufi sects, Sheikh Ahmad Al Qasabi, and Mr. Abu Faid demanded a ban on the film because they say it depicts the life of the Prophet Joseph, son of Jacob. Mr. Abadir calls for a ban, saying the film attacks Christianity by "altering facts depicted in the Bible." A lower court ruled on March 29 that The Emigrant could be screened, overturning a ban first won by Abu Faid in December. The Emigrant, a French-Egyptian co-production by leading Egyptian director Yousef Shahin, tells a story that closely resembles the tales of Joseph and his brothers and Potiphar's wife. Egyptian Islamists have turned frequently to the courts to launch action against writers, thinkers and filmmakers who they accuse of attacking Islam.

### Yemen deports Swedish police, Iraqi family

SANA (AFP) — Yemen sent back to Sweden late Saturday an Iraqi family expelled by Stockholm and their two Swedish police escorts, a government official said. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Iraqi family of four and the Swedes, who have all been detained since their arrival in Sanaa on Aug. 4, had left for Stockholm via Frankfurt on a Yemeni national airline flight. The decision to return them was taken "in agreement with the Swedish authorities, given that the members of the Iraqi family do not have travel documents and have political refugee status," the official said. According to the Yemeni authorities the Iraqis did not want to be returned to Yemen, where they lived before they went to Sweden.

### Kuwait, Iraq to hold talks on missing

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — Kuwaiti and Iraqi officials will meet on their border on Tuesday to discuss the fate of those captured by Iraq during its August 1990-February 1991 occupation of Kuwait, an official here said Sunday. The meeting, sponsored by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), will be held in the offices of the United Nations Kuwait-Iraq Observer Mission (UNIKOM), on the Kuwaiti side of the border, he added. U.S., British and French representatives will also attend the meeting, said an official of Kuwait's committee on prisoners affairs, Duaij Al Anzi, quoted by the state-run news agency KUNA. Kuwaiti officials will seek answers on the cases of 116 prisoners or missing people, he said. Kuwaiti, Iraqi and ICRC officials discussed 43 cases at a meeting held early this month in Geneva. Kuwait accuses Iraq of having taken 605 people from Kuwait when its forces were forced out of Kuwait by the U.S.-led Operation Desert Storm. Baghdad admits having captured 73 prisoners but says it lost them afterwards during an uprising in the south of Iraq.



'BATTLE READY': American servicemen at work on the flight deck of the USS Abraham Lincoln, which is anchored in the northern Gulf in high state of readiness" after what the U.S. described as unusual Iraqi military movements (see page one) (AFP photo)

## Baghdad resumes power supply to Kurds

BAGHDAD (R) — The Iraqi government in Baghdad has resumed supplying power to the breakaway Kurdish province of Dohuk for the first time in two years, a senior U.N. official said on Sunday.

Diplomats in Baghdad interpreted the move as an attempt to mend fences with the Kurds, now under the protection of an allied "no-fly" zone established at the end of the 1991 Gulf war.

Viktor Wahroo, deputy U.N. coordinator in Iraq, said Dohuk, its villages and towns, were lit by electricity.

"My senior delegate for northern Iraq confirms that power has been flowing to the Dohuk province for over a week from Nineveh governorate," Mr. Wahroo told Reuters.

"I consider this a very positive development," he said.

Baghdad broke off ties with rebel Kurds in 1992 when they decided to hold free elections for a parliament and a regional government away from its authority. Power was cut off from the province in 1993.

Mr. Wahroo said movement of people and commodities was still restricted between government-held areas and the Kurdish region.

He did not say what prompted Baghdad to reconnect Dohuk with the national grid. But he said the measure would help 750,000 Kurds in the province to lessen reliance on scarce and expensive supplies of gas and kerosene.

Other Kurdish provinces, Erbil and Sulaimaniyah, are lit by hydroelectric power under rebel control but U.N. officials say the two provinces witness long daily blackouts.

Iraqi leaders sent an envoy to open talks with the Kurds early this year but the rebels, locked in rivalries and sporadic fighting among themselves, spurned the initiative.

One diplomat said the supply of electricity to Dohuk by the government could be a prelude to the removal of the internal embargo Baghdad placed on the Kurdish region three years ago.

"Trade in particular items is booming. For the Iraqi Kurds it is almost the only means of living," one diplomat said.

He said about 800 Turkish trucks, laden with foodstuffs, crossed Dohuk into the government-held province of Nineveh. Iraqi Kurds control most of the crossing points into Turkey.

## COLUMN

### Singapore premier leads 30,000-strong workout

SINGAPORE (R) — More than 30,000 Singaporeans, including the island-state's prime minister, took part in a mass workout Sunday, in what organisers said marked a world record for an aerobic event. The participants, who included members of Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong's cabinet and members of parliament, also took part in a 3.3-km (two mile) walk along Singapore's National Heritage Trail. The event was part of a campaign to promote a healthy lifestyle among Singaporeans.

### Italy's 'AIDS gang' have imitators

TURIN, Italy (R) — Italy's "AIDS gang," three terminally ill men who brazenly rob banks knowing they cannot be imprisoned under Italian law, have discovered to their dismay that they have imitators. Police said Saturday that a second trio of men claiming to be in the terminal stages of the illness had been arrested after a copycat robbery in the northern city of Turin. "The AIDS gang has been successfully cloned," commented the city's daily La Stampa. Antonio Lamarrone, one of the original gang, was quoted as saying that the imitators should desist.

"Our was a provocative gesture," he said. "These guys are really putting a spanner in the works. If everyone who is terminally ill starts committing robberies it will be mayhem." The original threesome, dubbed the "AIDS gang" by the Italian media, robbed banks in the Turin area unmasked, in broad daylight and without worrying about security cameras that recorded their actions inside the banks. They were regularly detained after the robberies but then freed again because a 1993 Italian law rules out jail for those in the final stages of a terminal illness. Full-blown AIDS sufferers fall within this category although the government has promised to modify the law.

### Winnie Mandela to contest divorce

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Winnie Mandela will contest a divorce action being brought by her husband South African President Nelson Mandela, a Johannesburg newspaper reported Sunday. The Sunday Independent quoted Mrs. Mandela's lawyer Moses Mavundla as saying her decision could mean that the proceedings would last more than a year.

Mr. Mandela, 77, who has been separated from his wife since April 1992, initiated a formal divorce last week. His lawyer, Ismail Ayob, said at the time the divorce would be amicable.

The Sunday Independent said it had a letter written on behalf of Mrs. Mandela to her husband last month in which she accused him of wanting to destroy her politically.

He said about 800 Turkish trucks, laden with foodstuffs, crossed Dohuk into the government-held province of Nineveh. Iraqi Kurds control most of the crossing points into Turkey.

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## Princess Basma heads delegation to Beijir

### Transvestite fools 18 would-be grooms out of dowry

### AMMAN (Petra) — An

Royal Highness I

Amman on Monday

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